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Travels through the Southern Provinces of the Russian Empire, in the Year 1793, *and* 1794. *Translated from the German of P. S. Pallas, Counsellor of State to his Imperial Majesty of all the Russias, Knight, &c. In Two Volumes, large 4to. with many coloured Vignettes, Plates, and Maps.* 8l. 8s. boards. Cadell and Davies. 1803.

THERE is scarcely a writer who enjoys a more extensive share of reputation than Mr. Pallas, and who has more reason to be proud of the effects of his labours in a country which he has long honoured by his residence, and to whose civilization he has greatly contributed. It is observed that in nations which have attained a certain point of refinement, works are seldom produced which excite astonishment, or operate by any sudden or visible effect to a change of national manners and peculiarities. But what is true of a people who have arrived at a very high point of knowledge, is not of a nation just emerging from barbarism. The uneasiness of ignorance is soon felt when some one is at hand to point out our wants; and there is no appetite so strong among a people who are beginning to taste the benefits of civil society, as that which impels them to self improvement.

With the conviction of this truth, the empress Catherine of Russia invited the learned of every nation to grace her capital, and assist her in the task of civilization; for till a nation becomes learned and scientific, it can scarcely be considered as purified from the dregs of barbarism.

Germany, formerly the store-house of nations, at present of authors, was liberal in the supply; her own consumption was indeed great, but she had enough to spare for her neighbours. A powerful sovereign having declared her intention of putting her people to school to the tutors of other nations, and being eminently liberal in her offers soon accomplished her wishes, and Russia beheld instructors flocking to improve her from all parts of Europe, and commenced under them her first course of discipline and learning.

The quick attainment of civilization in this immense empire has been a subject of surprise with many, who attempt to establish their paradox by the example of other European nations, who were held for many centuries in the chains of barbarism and ignorance, and at last, with a tardy reluctance, and a seeming unwillingness to be disciplined, emerged to the first elements of knowledge. This paradox however vanishes before a moment's investigation:——He who teaches himself must necessarily acquire knowledge slower than he who is taught. France, England, and Germany, had to civilize themselves; for, in the middle ages, all were involved in the same darkness and obscurity. But, no sooner was the art of printing discovered, and science rescued from the perversion of the monks and the schools, than fifty years after, even in England, learning spread with such rapidity, that the scholars of Elizabeth's reign may justly challenge comparison with any of the last century. But very different was the case of Russia: an uncivi-

lized people, once formed into society, had only to express wants, and have them relieved: learning and the arts were in the neighbourhood; the elements of science were at hand; and instructors were at the beck to point out the use of them.

These remarks will not be thought unnecessary, as they answer a question which has often been enquired. Among the learned men who were received under the protection of the empress Catherine, Mr. Pallas was most distinguished by her partiality. She employed him in collecting information with respect to the distant provinces of her empire, of which she seemed to know nothing more than that her dominion was undisputed over them—that they lay in such a degree of longitude and latitude; but in regard to their state, their manners, and cultivation, she was wholly ignorant. Mr. Pallas, therefore, became her topographer, her geographer, her natural historian—in other words, her land-surveyor, and was employed to tell his mistress the value of what she possessed.

There are few writers whose range of science is more extensive than that of Mr. Pallas; he unites in himself many different talents; he is not barely the historian of climates, or manners; the geographer, or naturalist; but the statesman, and the observer of human life. It is somewhere observed, that he who intends to prosper in a new settlement must unite many trades; he must be a tanner as well as a shoe-maker; a cloth-weaver as well as a taylor.—It is only in countries of extreme refinement that we can expect our several wants to be supplied by different hands. The same remark is true as applied to what is expected from the learned in Russia. Mr. Pallas's labours have not before now been submitted to the English reader; and we have to regret that our language has not been enriched with more of them. There is still a work of travels in Russia, in five volumes, by the same author, which remains untranslated.—Whilst the press teems with so much nonsense from the French, we wish some gentleman, who has talents and leisure for the undertaking, would engage in the task: we assure him of success, and it would be a matter of no great difficulty to excel the present translation.

The Crimea has lately become an object of extreme curiosity, and great political interest:—Russia now feels her weight, her interest, and strength; and has established herself in the place which she ought to fill among the other European nations. Her immense extent of territory is, indeed, little dangerous from its being for the most part uncultivated, and uncivilized, and her population is not likely to inspire dread from the desperate state of servitude, and poverty, in which it is plunged. But good government can effect almost any thing, provided it has the materials to work with. A good politician, with territory and inhabitants, will make a powerful people, and a rich kingdom; the art of civilization, indeed, is liable to many interruptions, but under the direction of a wise policy, and a steady perseverance, it will conquer all obstructions. The Crimea, now united to Russia, is one of the most fertile countries of the universe; it lies under a happy climate, and is rich in all the productions necessary to life. It possesses the most advantageous ports in the Black Sea, and is every way favourable to commerce. In his travels in the Crimea, Mr. Pallas gives an account of the city of Perekop, which he esteems a port of considerable importance both to Russia, and the Crimea. If the project of opening free ports should be realized, and the commerce from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean vigorously promoted, Perekop, he seems to think, would be a place of importance. From Perekop he proceeds to Bakhtshisarai, of which he gives a minute description, which it is impossible to abridge faithfully, and unjust to mutilate. His geographical and physical account of

the south western quarter of the Crimean peninsula is extremely curious and scientific. Mr. Pallas permits nothing to escape him; he explores the present state, and the past, and is extremely learned on the subject of antiquities. But as it is impossible to follow him through all the cities, and provinces, which he visited, it will better accord with our plan to collect and abridge from his narrative what he terms General Remarks on the Peninsnla of the Crimea.

The population of the Crimea formerly amounted to half a million. Its first diminution took place in 1778, when, in consequence of the peace concluded with the Turks, above thirty thousand christians, as well Greeks, as Armenians, then settled in Crim Tartary, were removed to the country between the Don and the Berda, beyond the Sea of Azof. The emigration of the Tartars was still more numerous when Russia took possession of the Crimea from 1785, to 1788. The Tartar inhabitants of the Crimea may be divided into three classes: The first includes the Nagays; a remnant of the Tartars of Kuban, who were carried, to the number of 4,500, by the Turks into the Crimea, and dispersed among the nobility for their maintainance. Their condition was soon changed; they acquired opulence by rearing cattle, and are enabled to pay high rents to their landlords.

The second class consists of those Tartars who inhabit the heaths, or Steppes, as far as the mountains, on the north side. They devote themselves to the rearing of cattle more than the mountaineers, but are at the same time husbandmen.

To the third class belong the inhabitants of the southern vallies, bounded by the mountains; a mixed race, originating from the remnants of various nations, crowded together in the Crimea at its conquest by the armies of the Mongolian leaders.—They appear a people not given to industry, and of manners far from pastoral.—They are unprofitable and unworthy inhabitants of those paradisaical vallies, and have a disposition ever prompt to revolt against the Russian government.

The nobility, and the priesthood are highly respected among the Crimean Tartars, and in former times were often able to make a formidable resistance against the khan, and even to effect his deposition. With the exception of three or four families allied to royalty, there are seven ancient families who never entered into the service of the khan, pretending to a kind of political independence; nor did they ever take the field otherwise than voluntarily. The revenues of these nobles consisted of their tenths from their landed property; the herds and flocks depastured on them; the profits of their own husbandry, and live stock; and the tribute paid them by the Jews, Greeks, and Armenians. There is another class, called Thelebi, which does not completely rank with the nobles, though it is distinguished from the Plebeian Tartars, and esteemed as the descendants of the Mufti, and other dignified clergy.

It would be superfluous here to enlarge on the ceremonies and customs of the Tartars; as they agree in every respect with those of the Turkish Mahometans, so often described by travellers ---Polygamy is not frequent; male and female slaves are not common in that country, but the nobility support numerous idle attendants. Their pride consists in rich and beautiful apparel for their wives and themselves, and in handsome equipages to ride into town, accompanied by a train of domestics who follow them on all occasions; they live in the same indolent manner as their lords. The generality of these nobles lords are so ignorant that they can neither read nor write; and, instead of signing their names, they substitute an impression of their rings, on which a few Turkish words are engraven. Some of the young nobility, however, are beginning to study Russian, to apply themselves to reading and writing, and thus daily become more civilized. Credulity and

idleness are the principal traits of the Tartar character: To sit with a pipe in their hands, frequently without smoking, for many hours on a shady bank, or on a hill, though totally devoid of all taste for the beauties of nature, and looking straight before them, or if at work to make pauses and above all, to do nothing, constitute their supreme enjoyments. The language and writings of the real Tartars differ little from those of the Turks. Their mode of living is temperate, simple, and careless. Their warm clothing throughout the summer, and the little fatigue they undergo, defends the Tartars from almost every disease. Many natives arrive at a vigorous old age, and the country itself is infected with few epidemic diseases.

From its geographical situation, climate, and soil, the Crimea is the only region in Russia, in which all the products of Italy and Greece, that are not cultivated in the northern provinces, might be introduced and multiplied. Independently of the deficient population in general, as well as the want of substantial, expert merchants, and industrious inhabitants, the greatest obstacle to the prosperity of the Crimea arises from the circumstance, that the most beautiful mountains are chiefly occupied by villages, too small in proportion to the extent of these lands, and inhabited by slothful Tartars, whose rural economy exhibits a passion for devastation peculiar to that people. Constantly disaffected towards a christian government, they never cultivate more than is indispensably necessary for their food and clothing; placing their supreme happiness in indolence and repose. The women and children sit inactively in their harems, and appear to be expressly trained to an idle life. The Tartars seem to have an insuperable objection to woods and forests, and are ambitious that their whole country should be denuded. The waste of timber is never supplied by new plantations; for the Tartar never looks forward to futurity, and is too indolent to labour for a remote convenience.

Another circumstance which will impede the prosperity of the Crimea is, the dividing and apportioning of the best crown-lands, since the Russians took possession of the country, to absentees, who are disinclined to new plantations and improvement, or want capital to embark in them. Thus the fertile vallies on the southern coasts, in 1796, were distributed among proprietors of this description, which might, by a more economical arrangement, have been made eminently useful to the empire.

Lastly, one of the greatest impediments to the prosperity of this country is found in the insecurity of landed property. How much an uncertain tenure must operate against agricultural improvement is too evident to need proof; he who can scarcely fancy himself a possessor has no ambition to be an improver, and a man seldom risks his capital with the view of future profits, who is perhaps not secure even of those of the present moment. Since the Crimea has been in the possession of Russia, the lands which fell to the crown, either as demesnes of the khans, or by confiscation, were granted as hereditary property, without specifying whether such districts belonged to the proprietors with all their rents, or profits, in the same manner as the farmed estates in Livonia; or whether the Tartar inhabitants were to be considered as entirely independent on the land-holders. If we revert to ancient times, when the Tartar hordes invaded the Crimea, the conquerors seem to have exercised a complete feudal dominion over the old inhabitants. The lands were distributed among the different chieftains; and the common soldiers were mostly considered as farmers and tenants. About two hundred and eighty years since, under the reign of an ancient khan, regular limits were settled for the villages, and occupiers of land in the plains, and proper documents were made out for those who were entitled to such grants. When the Turks possessed the Crimea, Murses of distinguished merit, on the recommendation of the khan, obtained from the sultan grants of certain districts,

tricts, to be enjoyed only during life, as a reward for their services; by which tenure they received the rents for their emolument, and only paid a certain quit-rent to the Turkish treasury. But as the Crimea, at the peace of Kutshuk-Kainardshee, was entirely exonerated of its dependency on the Turkish empire, this territory on the southern coast reverted to the last khan, who farmed out the rents. The Russian nobility were now in possession of the greater part of these lands, which they farm out to the Tartars, but pay nothing from the profit to the khan.

Mr. Pallas enters into a learned description of the several productions of the Crimea, and shews himself the mineralogist, the botanist, and the agriculturist, as well as the statesman, and the philosopher. The account he gives of the locust is too curious to be omitted, but we are compelled to reduce it within shorter limits.

In serene warm weather the locusts are in motion in the morning, immediately after the evaporation of the dew. At first some are seen running about like messengers, among the reposing swarms, which are lying partly compressed upon the ground, at the side of small eminences, and partly attached to small plants and shrubs. Shortly after, the whole body moves forward in one direction.——They resemble a swarm of ants, all taking the same course at small distances without touching each other. They uniformly travel towards a certain region as fast as a fly can run, and without leaping, unless pursued. In this manner they advance from morning to evening without halting, frequently at the rate of a hundred fathoms a-day. Although they prefer to march along high roads, foot-paths, or open tracts, yet when their progress is opposed by hedges, bushes, and ditches, they penetrate through them; their way can only be impeded by the waters of brooks or canals; as they appear terrified at every kind of moisture. Towards sun-set the whole swarm gradually collects in parties, and creep up the plants, or encamp on slight eminences.—Woe then to the vineyards in which such a swarm settles for the night; and if the following day should happen to be cold, cloudy, or rainy, in which weather they never travel, they not only consume all the weeds and vine leaves in it, but frequently, when the weeds do not supply them with sufficient nutriment, and exercise, they completely strip the bark and buds off the young twigs; so that these shoots remain throughout the summer as white as chalk, and full of sap, without producing fresh foliage. The same fate awaits those places on which they settle for the purpose of casting their skins. It is a remarkable circumstance, that while the vine blossoms continue closed the insect does not attack them, but as soon as they are blown it devours the whole of them in the most rapacious manner, the stalk only being spared.

Such is the destructive progress of an army of locusts.

But we are already encroaching upon our limits, and the work of Mr. Pallas must be dismissed. Upon the whole, it is rather a book of utility than entertainment. The author's journey was undertaken for state purposes and not for private amusement; he writes therefore, to politicians more than any other class of readers, and to such his work is peculiarly interesting. General philosophy and science are not however excluded from his plan; as a botanist and an antiquarian, his knowledge is profound, and to readers of this taste he will be a welcome companion. But the common, and therefore more numerous class, will not have much curiosity to peruse him; there is no allurement for the reader who is not scientific, and the superficial mass is the greatest.—We are afraid, therefore, with all its splendid typographic decorations, this work will have the fate of many more, equally learned and profound; it will be consulted, and not read; it will be praised, but not added to our libraries. The vignettes are beautifully coloured, the plates are numerous, and well executed, and the maps are extremely correct, and copious.

The

The History of the Wars which arose out of the French Revolution: to which is prefixed a Review of the Causes of that Event. By Alexander Stevens of the Honorable Society of the Middle Temple, Esq. 2 vols. 4to. 3l. 13s. 6d. boards. Phillips, 1803.

THE explosion of the French Revolution is that æra of the world which bestows as distinct a character upon the times in which it happened, as either of the four first monarchies has given to the several periods of their existence.——If we were inclined to give reins to the little eloquence we have, we might here talk, with many of our contemporaries, of the system of Europe being changed, of a new order of things commenced; and lament the overthrow of those principles of religion and morality which governed and contained the world.—But we have limits in the plan of our work which we do not find in our zeal; this declamation must be left to such as have more time and room than ourselves, and our own pages must be occupied with a cursory review of the present interesting work. A maxim with respect to history wanders abroad which has been too long received to be wholly without truth,—that the narratives of great events are seldom well described by those who have lived in the times which gave them birth. Perhaps to the writers of every other kingdom this maxim may have applied,—and once to those of our own. But such is the present perfection of our freedom that every thing is openly discussed,—there is no fear from the influence of a great character; every thing is known, and the press may diffuse it widely; its licentiousness is only restrained by its necessities, and if we have a great deal of scandal, we have yet a great deal of truth.—The negotiation of Embassadors, and the resolutions of Cabinets, as our constitution requires them to be brought to light at the proper season of inquiry, are all open to the discussion of the English historian; and there is nothing to restrain him from the exercise of unlimited investigation into the conduct of men and things, but his own discretion. With this liberty, so serviceable to the historian, other circumstances have concurred to assist Mr. Stevens in his present narrative.

The French Revolution and the wars it gave rise to, were subjects of perpetual controversy; every event gave birth to a swarm of pamphlets, and the frequent collision of party writers must at least have elicited some truth among much misrepresentation.—A certain illustrious nobleman is said to be possessed of every pamphlet, written upon the French Revolution and the late war; can his library sustain an additional load?

But the present writer has possessed advantages of a superior nature; he has not made one book from another, or reduced and arranged materials common to all readers; he has obtained access to such sources of information as might correct popular errors, and has received the clue of their conduct from statesmen themselves, and heard their own commentary and reasons of their action.—To a nobleman lately in a high official situation he was indebted for an important communication; he professes likewise acknowledgments to many actors in the scene, but does not acquaint us with the extent of the obligation.

He begins his work with a summary account of France from the early periods of its monarchy; this was perhaps unnecessary, but he has to plead the example of Davila.—He has however imitated him with much prudence in making it rapid and concise.—His account of the earlier kings, the state of the nation, and the convocation of the orders, together with the characters of the monarchs, seems imitated from the *Tableaux Historiques*, published a few years since in Paris, a work which we are rejoiced to hear is now in the hands of a translator.—The language he holds of the ministers,

ministers, the reflections on the finances, the view of the writers of the Encyclopedia, and the causes to which he attributes the Revolution, seem to correspond very minutely with the work we have mentioned.

In this introduction, which contains 170 pages, there is nothing very remarkable but the avowal of the author's sentiments.—He seems to censure the conduct of the king and the ministry with much severity, and palliate with too much fondness the excesses of the people.—The conduct of the king and his ministers was often ill-judged, but seldom tyrannical.—The author's joining in the cry of the corrupted Orleanists against the Bastille and the other receptacles of despotism, is not much to his credit.—Let him read Moleville's account of this—He will there find that the taking of the Bastille, so pompously boasted of as the recovery of the liberty of the nation, and the release of thousands from despotism, only gave freedom to two old prisoners of state, one of whom was an idiot, and the other a person who would not have been suffered to go free even by our own government.

The body of the work commences with the campaign in 1792, and proceeds with a gradual enumeration of events to the peace of Amiens.

In a publication of such bulk it is impossible to follow a writer step by step; and whatever commentary we could give would only embrace such topics as are familiar to the reader, and upon which public opinion is for the most part made up.——Mr. Stevens, however, is never venomous—whatever are his political opinions, he endeavours to substantiate them by argument, and those who dislike his reasoning have no grounds for suspecting his intentions. Questions of politics are seldom of that irrefragable demonstration as to exclude contrariety of opinion. The political code does not, like the moral, present a determinate system of action; difference on these subjects have existed between the best of men, and will still continue to divide them into parties so long as governments exist. We have, therefore, no quarrel with Mr. Stevens, because he thinks differently from us; he betrays no uncandid animosity in his writings, and believes other men, who disagree with him, as well-intentioned as he has shewn himself. When the French Revolution was in the course of establishment, before the war with England broke out, Mr. Stevens gives this account of the state of opinions and parties which we shall select for our extract:

'The war of opinions had already commenced in Britain and some 'Machiavelian politicians now began to augur the necessity of a war of 'another kind. A divine (Dr. Price) alike respectable for his talents and 'his integrity, having preached a sermon asserting the justice of the Eng-'lish Revolution at the latter end of the seventeenth century, and antici-'pating much happiness from that which had recently occurred in France, 'some persons were pleased to take umbrage at his opinions; but it was 'reserved for an eloquent stateman (Mr. Burke) who was supposed to 'have devoted the whole of his life to the cause of liberty, to attempt a 'refutation. The elegant work in which he endeavoured with considera-'ble success to gild and varnish the obsolete doctrines of a Filmer, a Brady, 'and a Sacheverel, lost him many friends; but, on the other hand, it 'gained him the hearts of all his former enemies, and not only procured 'him the prospect and even promise of a peerage, but rescued himself and 'family from the thraldom of a ruined fortune.

'The rewards prematurely announced for tenets such as these, and that 'too during the reign of a family whose elevation from the electoral to the 'regal dignity originated solely in the just claim of the nation to alter, re-'form, and change its government, occasioned much surprise and provoked

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'many able replies. As the current of popular opinion did not then flow 'exactly in the same direction with the favour of the court, a pamphlet 'entitled the "Rights of Man," in which sentiments of an opposite kind 'were maintained with peculiar asperity of animadversion, was read and 'circulated in such a manner as to alarm the administration. Editions 'were multiplied in every possible form and size; it was alike seen in the 'hands of the noble and the plebeian, and became at length translated into 'the various languages of Europe. So great and so general was the effect, 'that it seemed to operate like an electric shock, and actually produced a 'species of political earthquake, the vibrations of which affected more or 'less every mind in the kingdom.

'The cabinet council, eager to consider this daring reply as the signal 'of alarm, soon after issued a proclamation, against "Wicked and seditious 'libels;" prosecutions were commenced with a zeal hitherto unknown 'since the extinction of the Star chamber, and the press became at length 'subject to restraints that but ill accorded with our accustomed notions of 'liberty. It was reserved for the singular fortune of an unlettered man, 'after contributing by one publication to the emancipation of the Trans-'Atlantic Continent, to terrify and almost subdue the first state in Europe 'by another.

'The inhabitants of Great-Britain, whose aversion from the French had 'chiefly originated in the degrading nature of their government, rejoiced 'to behold a neighbouring nation rescuing itself from the bondage of ages, 'and asserting its rights to a free constitution. Many political clubs and 'societies were eager to felicitate the First Assembly on its labours; some 'of them actually transmitted shoes for the troops about to contend in the 'cause of freedom, and even contributed money to furnish them with arms 'against those who wished either to intimidate or enslave them. Of the 'addresses which accompanied these presents a few were unobjec-'tionable; but several were couched in language calculated to give offence 'to moderate men of all parties, and abounded with such inflammatory 'allusions with respect to the British Government, that they incurred the 'severest censure and reprehension.

'England was at this period recovering fast from the wounds inflicted by 'the American war. The genius of the country had been suffered to de-'velope itself in the elegance, variety, and cheapness of its manufactures— 'Every market in the world was supplied with her commodities; the cities 'of Europe, Asia, and America, glittered with her productions; the serag-'lios of Constantinople, the barbarian majesty of Fez and Tangiers, as well 'as the more refined luxury displayed in the Harems of the East, and even 'the pagodas of China and Japan, were embellished by her artisans.— 'Every street, every bay, and every sea, was visited by our ships; and there 'was scarcely a portion of the habitable globe that might not be considered 'as contributing at the same time to the opulence of our adventurous mer-'chants and the necessities of our numerous poor.

'Never was the idea of a war less popular than at the epoch now alluded 'to. A generous sentiment of forbearance pervaded the whole nation, 'and many men of the greatest weight, talent, and consequence in the 'kingdom, were decidedly averse to hostilities. Among the friends of 'peace in one house of Parliament appeared a Bedford, doomed to perish 'before his talents were fully unfolded; a Lauderdale, distinguished by the 'depth and extent of his knowledge; a Stanhope, celebrated for his philo-'sophical attainments, and already obnoxious to those in power from the 'pertinacity of his principles; a Lansdowne, who had occupied the highest

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'situations in the state, and was growing hoary in the contemplation of 'public affairs.—In another was seen a Grey, just bursting into manhood, 'and yet already celebrated for his various acquirements; a Sheridan 'equally delighting by the keenness of his wit, and convincing by the 'strength of his arguments; a Fox, by a rare union of virtues and of 'talents, exhibiting the philanthropist, the statesman, and the orator, in the 'same person.—On the other hand, a minister, justly celebrated for his 'knowledge of finance, and at the same time capable of displaying the most 'distinguished eloquence, at this critical period presided over the councils 'of the nation. Such was the restless activity of his mind, that every 'court of Europe had been by turns the theatre of his diplomatic exploits; 'and Spain and Russia already felt that he was desirous of acquiring a new 'species of glory. The virtues and abilities of his father, had originally 'engendered a partiality in his favour, and the ingenuous modesty of his 'early youth rendered him at one time peculiarly dear to every Englishman. 'The injustice, the venality, and the corruption displayed in the course of 'the American war, were themes by means of which he allured the nation 'and attained the highest offices of the state: for he had acted the part of 'a tribune of the people before he was deemed fit to become the minister of 'a king. Eagerly seizing on every occasion to descant on the degeneracy 'of the constitution, Pitt appeared even for a time zealous to restore it to its 'original purity: these were doubtless the genuine sentiments of a heart as 'yet uncorrupted by power; but unhappily for his country, if not for him- 'self, the son of the Earl of Chatham, while yet a boy, had discovered an 'insatiable ambition, which prompting him to spurn at the idea of ascend- 'ing by the usual gradations of office, taught him at the same time to aspire 'to, and even to attain, the summit of command at a single bound.

'This youthful statesman had now in some measure lost the confidence 'of the great body of the nation, by the abandonment of the principles on 'which his reputation was at first founded; and those who pretended to 'have studied his character, prognosticated long before the present period, 'that all his seductive schemes for the reform of parliament, the abolition 'of the slave trade, and the diminution of the public burdens, would be 'offered up as a sacrifice on the altar of power.

'The cabinet, in which the towering genius of the premier overshadowed 'the influence of his colleagues, was in part filled, at this critical period, 'with those very men who had formerly failed in the attempt to enforce 'the claims of Great Britain to tax her unrepresented colonies, and were 'supposed to have incurred no small share of odium by countenancing the 'most disastrous war that this country ever witnessed.

'These soon received a considerable accession of support from the ranks 'of opposition.—Fitzwilliam took the enemies of his former faith to his 'bosom, with all the zeal of a new convert, but soon found himself stung 'to the heart by the perfidious embrace. Windham, aiming perhaps to 'conduct that war for which he had been so strenuous an advocate, was 'desirous to exhibit the same talents against the republican French, that 'he had before displayed in behalf of the insurgent Americans; while 'Burke, himself a host, prepared to exhaust the powers of a mind gifted 'with every science, and of a tongue that still fascinated every hearer, 'against a nation which he bitterly reproached with having at the same 'time contumaciously overturned the throne of its kings, and the altars of 'its God."

Some of the readers of this work may be inclined to think that candour is affected, but not observed; that the spirit of party frequently suppresses

and distorts truth, and that Mr. Stevens is not the best guide in a course of events, which require more impartiality and extensive talents to illustrate. From the extract we have given, the powers of the author may be conjectured. In describing the several statesmen, or, as it were, *dramatis personæ* of his history, with Belsham and other historians of the day, he apes Hume in his introduction of the Revolutionary characters in the reign of Charles the first.—But of the force, the colouring, and discrimination of his master, he has no more than his cotemporaries: all is chill and dull, the trash of a gazette,—the alternate eulogy and satire of a hireling journalist. The style of this work is ponderous and inelegant; no vigorous display of new argument, no dexterous palliation of the behaviour of those whom the public condemns, no political wisdom, no classical illumination, no peculiar penetration into the reason and conduct of things, relieve the wearisomeness which the reader must naturally feel in the perusal of two bulky volumes. If the greater talents of the historian be wanting, they are generally supplied by the minor qualifications of taste and elegance. But here unhappily is a barren waste. The delicate vein of irony and humour which marked the writings of Hume and Gibbon have no place in Mr. Stevens. In the art of tasty and sprightly composition he is miserably defective: his metaphors, his similes, and illustrations, are too curious to be wholly passed over. We will instance one hyperbolically ridiculous, and in the extreme of bad taste.

'No sooner, therefore, did the revolutionary volcano burst forth, than the 'troops of the capital were entangled in, and carried along with the burn-'ing lava.'

The improper use of words will be observed in the extract we have given, together with the inelegance and redundancy of the phraseology. The term '*engendered*' is applied without consulting its meaning, and is very offensive to good taste:—to '*seize on*' is a redundant vulgarism. The style is altogether too wordy, the transitions seldom happy, and the author has too frequently consulted his private prejudices. But it is not our intention to condemn this book in gross. As it arranges and methodises materials which lay before in a confused mass, of which every one from the general interest they inspire, must wish a correct account; the undertaking is praise-worthy, and the execution, though imperfect, not undeserving of patronage. But we cannot dissemble our real sentiments, or hypocritically compliment the public on an accession to their historical knowledge. An awkward performance has often not been without its effect in exciting the emulation of a happier genius; the rude unskilful blows of the blacksmith on his anvil communicated to Pythagoras his first knowledge of a system of music.

Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London for the year 1803. Part 1, 4to. 1l. 1s. Nicol.

THE republic of letters, with the natural freedom it gives, is in danger, like all other institutions, lest liberty should degenerate into licentiousness. Some restraining power has thus been thought necessary, which, without curbing opinion or exercising unjust severity, shall acquire such a reverence in the public mind, as may supply the place of authority, and be enabled to guard the proper establishments of science, to defend them from the assaults of malice and ignorance, and the abuse of mistaken zeal. Societies of learned men have indeed often exercised an unlicensed domination over the republic of letters by the mere power of prejudice, and the reverence of an established name, but this has seldom been the case in England, where we

are

are little inclined even to respect the power which law sustains, much less that which only rests upon opinion.

In countries where the freedom of the press is restrained, science is in a great measure dependent on arbitrary will; the edict of those societies which power acknowledges, are binding upon the philosophers of the kingdom, and to contend against their truth is a rebellion seldom unchastised. Thus in Spain and Italy, not long since, and particularly during the memorable prevalence of the Jesuits, to controvert a dogma of science was as formidable an opposition to power as to withstand a decree of law. In those ages indeed, science and social subjection depended on the same means, and where there was servitude in one, could less be expected than degrading corruption in the other?

Happily in this country philosophy has recourse to other means; if it prevails, it is by the force of conviction only: into all its dogmas the freedom of the press invites an unlimited investigation, and what proceeds even from a learned society, though it is received with respectful reverence, must pass the ordeal of public judgment before it can be enrolled among the decrees of truth.

In an advertisement prefixed to the late volumes of the society's transactions the reader is informed that the printing of the philosophical transactions was, from time to time, the single act of the respective secretaries, till the forty-seventh volume the society not interesting itself, as a body, in the publication, any further than to recommend the revival of some of their transactions to their secretaries, when they had happened for any length of time to be interrupted. This, we are told, was done with a view to satisfy the public, who might else suspect that their meetings were not continued, and that the great object for which they were enrolled had been suffered to die away. But certainly no charge of remissness or neglect can be entertained against this venerable body which, for so long a period, has pursued the course marked out for it, to contribute by the diffusion of science, and the improvement of knowledge, to the solid benefits of mankind.

'But the society being of late years greatly enlarged, and their communications more numerous, it was thought advisable, that a committee of 'their members should be appointed, to reconsider the papers read before 'them, and select out of them such as they should judge most proper for pub-'lication in the future *transactions*; which was accordingly done upon the '26th of March, 1752. It is likewise necessary on this occasion to remark, 'that it is an established rule of the society, to which they will always ad-'here, never to give their opinions in a body, upon any subject, either of 'nature, or art, that comes before them. And therefore the thanks which 'are frequently proposed from the chair, to be given to the authors of such 'papers as are read at their accustomed meeting, or to the persons through 'whose hands they receive them, are to be considered in no other light 'than as a matter of civility, in return to the respect shewn to the society 'by those communications."

The propriety of this conduct can hardly be questioned; the society thus precludes itself from offending, whilst it preserves its dignity.—A body, perpetually renewed by election, could not be expected to promulgate opinions which should always bind them; sometimes they would quarrel with the public, but more frequently with their own corporate decisions, so that at length their jarring decrees, like the bulls of successive popes, would leave them a prey to such uncertainty and dissensions, that confidence and truth would be in vain sought by the common reader.

Of the contents of this part our readers will be desirous to receive a short analysis—

1. Observations on the quantity of horizontal refraction; with a method of measuring the dip at sea—By Dr. Wollaston. A very learned paper, though the obvious objection, of which the Dr. takes notice, of the possibility of the refraction differing in opposite points of the horizon at the same time, seems not sufficiently cleared up.

2. A chemical analysis of some calamines, by Mr. Smithson.

3. Experiments on the quantity of gases absorbed by water, at different temperatures, and under different pressures—By Mr. Henry. A most valuable communication.

4. Experiments and observations on the various alloys, on the specific gravity, and on the comparative wear of gold—being the substance of a report made to the lords of the committee of the privy council, appointed to take into consideration the state of the coins of this kingdom, and the present establishment and constitution of the king's mint—By Mr. Charles Hatchett. This paper will be read with much curiosity; it is extremely scientific, and the result of much curious investigation.

5. Observations on the chemical nature of the humours of the eye—By Richard Chenevix. This gentleman has a high reputation for science, and whatever he publishes must be regarded with interest; his present communication is of the same philosophical character with others we have seen from him.

6. An account of some stones said to have fallen on the earth in France; and of a lump of native iron said to have fallen in India—By the Right Hon. Charles Greville. This communication will be read with curiosity; it was our desire to have given an abstract of it, but we found, on consulting our limits, they would not comprise it, though extremely short.

7. Observations on the structure of the tongue, illustrated by cases, in which a portion of that organ has been removed by ligature—By Everard Home.

8. Observations of the transit of Mercury over the disk of the sun; to which is added an investigation of the causes which often prevent the action of mirrors, by Dr. Herschell. This illustrious astronomer has here submitted a very curious paper; it has all the profundity and wisdom of the author.

9. An account of some experiments and observations on the constituent parts of certain astringent vegetables; and on their operation in Tanning—By Mr. Davy, professor of chemistry in the Royal Institution. We need say nothing in praise of this communication, when the name of the scientific author is known.

10. An appendix to Mr. William Henry's paper, on the quantity of gases absorbed by water, at different temperatures, and under different pressures.

The appendix contains a meteorological journal kept at the apartments of the Royal Society, by order of the president and council.

Minstrelsy

Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border, &c. consisting of historical and romantic ballads collected in the southern counties of Scotland, with a few of a modern date founded upon local tradition. With an introduction and notes by the editor, Walter Scott, Esq. Advocate. 3 vols. 8vo. 1l. 11s. 6d. boards. Longman and Rees.

IT was the saying of that great statesman, Cardinal Richelieu, 'Let *me* 'make the ballads of a nation, and I care not who makes the laws.'

We should not comment on the justness of a remark, in which truth is for the most part suppressed for the sake of the point, but we may be permitted to say that the ancient ballads and legendary tales of a people are the surest marks of their primeval manners and customs—The real character of a nation is to be sought in the great mass of the people, not in schools and courts, which refinement vitiates and corrupts. To this mass the songs are chaunted, and the tales told,—they must be expected, therefore, to reflect their manners, and to give them the resemblance of themselves.

Dr. Percy's publication of the old English ballads has thrown no inconsiderable light on subjects of antiquities, and the same effect is intended by the production before us. The compilation has been made with great judgment and taste, and the author has conferred a benefit upon the Scotch which, as a nation eminent for a grateful acknowledgment of the civilities shewn to it, will not pass unrewarded. Before every song, ballad, and tale, a curious account is given of the circumstances on which they are supposed to be founded. This account must have been extremely difficult to collect; it exhibits great antiquarian and historical research, but the author has not been always condemned to pursue his labours unassisted; he has met with the aid and encouragement of many illustrious Scotchmen, who have contributed, with honourable emulation, to the perfection of his plan. The old dress of the language is very properly removed when it interferes too much with perspicuity, but sufficient of the venerable rust of antiquity is preserved to obviate all suspicion of the original. When any difficulty of language occurs, the author is at hand to explain it, and the many amusing accounts he gives of Scotch superstition fill us with a kind of pleasure not wholly unmixed with wonder. Our readers will be gratified with an extract from so pleasing a work.

But it may be first necessary to venture a few general remarks on the subject of these ballads.

The borders of Scotland formed the stage of those bloody conflicts which so long raged between two rival nations. The chiefs or heads of the several clans had trained their people wholly to arms, and lived, for the most part, by rapine and incursions upon their more opulent neighbours. In the work of retaliation, however, the English were not slow; revenge often changed the scene of devastation, and for a long time the confines of both kingdoms were possessed by a species of free booters. But the borderers were frequently not less hostile to the English than to their own government. The great Barons prided themselves on an obstinate resistance of their sovereign, and whenever the course of government was interrupted, as in Scotland was frequently the case from a disputed succession, the violent death, or minority of their kings, they instantly flew to arms, and plundered with the lawless violence of banditti. Their turbulence seems not to have been repressed till both islands acknowledged the same king.—The battles fought, the victories obtained, the defiances, the lamentations, and the triumphs, form the principal subject of these ballads; though many turn on the common superstitions, the customs, and manners of the people. A very elegant and pleasing account is given of the borders in the introduction

to the work, in which the chief events of Scotch history are related, with which they appear to be connected. As it will not accord with our limits to give a whole ballad, our readers must accept an extract of a few stanzas from the '*Battle of Otterbourne.*'

It fell about the Lammas tide,
When the muir-men win their hay,
The doughty Earl of Douglas rode
Into England, to catch his prey.

He chose the Gordons and the Grœmes,
With them the Lindsays light and gay,
But the Jardines wald not with him ride,
And they rue it to this day.

And as he turned the dales of Tyne,
And part of Bambrough shire;
And three good towers on Roxburgh fells,
He left them all on fire.

And he marched up to Newcastle,
And rode it round about;
'O wha's the Lord of this castle,
'Or wha's the Lady o't?'

But up spake proud Lord Percy then
And O but he spake hie!
'I am the Lord of this castle,
'My wife's the Lady gay.'

'If thou'rt the Lord of this castle,
'Sae weel it pleases me!
'For ere I cross the border fells,
'The tane of us shall die.'

He took a lang spear in his hand,
Shod with the metal free,
And for to meet the Douglas there,
He rode right furiouslie.

But O how pale his Lady look'd
Frae aff the castle wa',
When down before the Scottish spear,
She saw proud Percy fa'!

'Had we twa been upon the green,
'And never an eye to see,
'I wad hae had you, flesh and fell;
'But your sword sall gae wi' me.

'But gae ye up to Otterbourne,
'And wait there dayis three;
'And if I come not ere three dayis end,
'A fause knight ca' ye me.'

'The Otterbourne's a bonnie burn,
'Tis pleasant there to be;
'But there is nought at Otterbourne,
'To feed my men and me.

'The deer rins wild on hill and dale,
'The birds fly wild from tree to tree;
'But there is neither bread nor kale,
'To 'fend my men and me.

'Yet I will stay at Otterbourne,
'Where you shall welcome be,
'And, if ye come not at three days end,
'A fause Lord I'll ca' thee.'

"Thither, will I come,' proud Percy said,
'By the might of our Lady!'
'There will I bid thee,' said the Douglas,
'My trowth I plight to thee.'

But we can spare no more for the battle of Otterbourne.

In giving a general opinion on this book a favourable judgment may reasonably be expected. Old ballads have of late drawn the attention of the public, and the prejudice of the day runs more in favour of modern than ancient poetry. But considered in respect to utility, upon as reference is made to history, we do not see the good of reviving the indiscriminate rubbish of antiquity, or calling our attention to what, but that it is old, has little claim to rank as poetry. As the revival of some of these ballads throws light upon the history of a nation, a great object is answered; as they explain the customs and superstitions of a barbarous people, they afford a pleasing treat to the antiquarian, but they take little hold upon the mind of the intelligent and general reader. To hunt after the mouldy manuscripts of forgotten songs, in order to correct errors and settle dates, is no amusement to him, who cares not if the '*Children of the Wood*,' has been vitiated by hereditary faults and careless transcripts, and who is little desirous that the text of '*Robin Hood*' should be disturbed, though collation and comparison should point out many judicious emendations.

We must not dismiss this book without a marked praise of the eminent typographic decorations it exhibits: these, doubtless will contribute to secure it popularity.

The

The History of the Reign of George the Third, to the Termination of the late War. To which is prefixed, a View of the progessive Improvement of England, in Prosperity and Strength, to the Accession of his Majesty. In Six Volumes. By Robert Bisset, L. L. D. Author of the Life of Burke, &c. &c. Longman and Rees, &c. 2l. 12s. 6d.

THE long and illustrious reign of the present king has been no less fertile in historical events than favourable to the prosperity and happiness of his country; it is, in truth, the epoch of English glory.

Distinguished alike by arts and arms, the reign of George the Third is that æra in which the refinement and perfection of society have been secured by well administered laws and the spirit of rational liberty; and the commerce and wealth of a kingdom have been employed to foster the arts, and multiply the decent pleasures of life.

The blessings of this affluence which commerce has poured in upon the nation, the press has shared with other institutions. Perhaps there never was a time when there were such numerous candidates for it in every department. The class of historians has to lament no scantiness of number, and many of them, out of compliment perhaps to that monarch under whose protection the luxuriance of the press has grown up, have devoted their talents to the recital and celebration of the events which distinguish his auspicious reign.

The historian, indeed, has an ample field before him; he has pearls thrown at his feet, and has only the labour to string them. But this richness of materials is not without disadvantage; it often distracts with choice, and perplexes by accumulation. To select and arrange is indeed a task of judgment rather than genius; but it is judgment on its hardest trial, and a labour in which many have failed.

There is, however, one convenience attending the historian of the present reign which belonged to no other. Every minute event and transaction has been recorded in such a variety of journals, that though each separately may have been under the influence of party, careless in its collection, and perverse in its representation, truth may undoubtedly be collected from the whole mass, and the number of jarring accounts has the peculiar advantage of defeating the falsehoods and detecting the errors of each other. Truth is said to be discovered from controversy, and the collision and opposition of these journalists afford the best opportunity of correct and ample information.

In the commencement of the present reign, a very meritorious annual compilation began under the auspices of Burke, in which was reposited every political event, reasoned upon with a statesman's penetration, and methodised and arranged with a scholar's judgement and taste. This work is accessible to every one, and little more seems wanting, as far at least as relates to the narrative of events. These materials are still more increased by the number of political defences which statesmen have written of their own conduct; governors of their own trusts; and generals of their own campaigns. In this age of authors, every one aspires to serve his country in as many capacities as he can. An administration is no sooner dissolved, than the whole detail of its conduct and intrigues is submitted to the public. A victory is no sooner obtained, than all that relates to it is formed into a book; for our officers are all Cæsars, and can describe battles as well as win them. Thus every event is sifted to the bottom, and if the historian does not want industry, he need not want truth. Where there is so much to invite the author, many will of course start for the

the prize. Dr. Bisset is the last in the field, and bids fair to be the last in the race.

This gentleman, we believe, made his *debut* in the learned world with the Life of Burke; some of our readers will have seen this work.—It is no evidence of his competence to the present task.

As the arrangement of a work of this kind is the corner stone of its excellence, it is fit to develope it: Dr. Bisset shall do it in his own words. 'In the disposition of my materials I have adopted the following plan:—Previous to the commencement of the history there is an Introduction, which traces the progressive improvement of England, in internal prosperity and strength, as well as in estimation and importance among foreign powers, from the earliest times to the beginning of the war, 1756.'

This introduction we must object to as unnecessary. Why are the Danes, Saxons, and Romans, to be introduced again upon the stage? It is a complaint against many writers of voyages, that they cannot describe a petty island without ushering in Columbus. What have the customs of the Saxons and Danes to do with those of the reign of George the Third? What is there inexplicable in our trade, commerce, or constitution, at the present day, that requires to be elucidated from a reference to the first barbarous invaders of this island? or, if it did, it is in so many other books, that it was manifestly irregular to force it into this. That it may be connected with the subject is very true, so may any one part of history with another: but, according to this maxim, if Dr. Bisset had written the history of England instead of George the Third, he would doubtless have begun with the deluge. This trick of book-making, for it is nothing else, to say the least, is very indecorous in an author of respectability. The same rule may apply to poetry as well as history, and the writer who hurries *in medias res*, is more entertaining and instructive than he who, with over nice and laboured deduction, commences with events of that remoteness which cannot be supposed to have influenced the present circumstances and results. The Dr. proceeds,—

'A preliminary chapter contains the causes and outline of hostilities, with the internal transactions and state of the country during the last years of the late king; in order that the reader, having before him, at the accession of his present Majesty, the outset of national affairs, foreign and domestic, may more easily perceive progression and result. Both in the introduction and history, it has been my endeavour to place, in a just and striking light, the force of the British character, formed and invigorated by the British constitution; and to demonstrate that Britain, either in peace or in war, prospers and conquers, because she excels in wisdom and virtue. This is the moral lesson which my narrative attempts to inculcate; and if I do not succeed, the deficiency is in myself, and not in my subject. It is possible that my narrative may be charged with national partiality; I confess I love my country, and hate her enemies; and if this be a crime, I must plead guilty.'

The reader will easily perceive the ridiculous cant of this introduction;—'To tell us that he loves his country, and hates her enemies,' was unnecessary, as we should readily have given him credit for so national a sentiment, and so common a duty. This affected manliness, this foolish bluntness of honesty, this catechism of principles, must disgust any man of taste. To proceed, 'I trust, however, that notwithstanding my warm affection for Britain, and my admiration of her stupendous efforts, I shall be found, even in reciting the contest with her foes, to have rigidly adhered to historical truth, and done justice to the exertions of her enemies,

'mies; who, in disciplined valour, genius, and power, far surpassed any 'foes that were ever opposed to the heroes of ancient Greece or Rome.

'In the division of this history I have endeavoured to end each volume 'at some important epoch. This first closes with the termination of his 'Majesty's first parliament in 1768, and brings Irish affairs to the same period. 'The second carries the American war to the capture of Burgoyne. The 'third contains the efforts of Britain under the pressure of difficulty, and her 'arduous struggle against the combined force of her revolted colonies, and 'her ancient friends joined with her ancient enemies in Europe; traces 'her through her dangers to the peace, and ends with the dissolution of that 'parliament in which a majority of the Commons attempted to dictate to the 'king the choice of a minister.

'The fourth commences the efficient administration of Mr. Pitt, and fol- 'lows the history of peace and prosperity to the eve of an event which was 'destined to fill the world with wars unprecedented in the annals of nations. 'The fifth, commences with the French Revolution, and finishes at 1794, 'when the character of the French nation was manifested in the junction of 'the highest national energy with the most deplorable national crime.

'It was my intention to have extended the work to the peace of Amiens, 'but the recent rupture, with the official exposition of its causes, having 'shewn that one of the parties regarded it merely as a temporary truce, the 'cessation of hostilities appeared to me to form a more proper epoch than 'the conclusion of a treaty which the conduct of our enemy has proved to be 'regarded by him as no treaty.

'Such are the objects, plan, and distribution of this present history; and 'if the execution be received with equal favour as my former labours, it will 'answer the most sanguine expectations of the author."

Having concluded the Doctor's preface, which shews no novelty of design in the work, and is not very full of promise, we shall submit an extract and close our account. In his first volume, page 366, the Dr. gives the following character of Wilkes—

'John Wilkes, Esq. member for Aylesbury, was a man of ready ingenuity, 'versatile talents, taste, and classical erudition; he was distinguished for wit 'and pleasantry, and surpassed most men as an entertaining and engaging 'companion. He was, not, however, eminent as a senator or a law-giver; 'he was extremely dissipated; as indifferent to religion as to morals, and to 'pecuniary circumstances as to either. Prodigality had ruined his fortune, 'and profligacy his character. Bankrupt in circumstances and reputation, 'he had applied to Lord Bute to extricate him from his difficulties. His cha- 'racter was so notorious, that a statesman who regarded religion and mora- 'lity could not patronise him, though he might easily have rendered him his 'tool. Wilkes in revenge became a flaming patriot, inveighed against the 'attacks upon our rights and liberties, and against the unprincipled wicked- 'ness of the rulers; and the North Briton was one of the chief vehicles of 'his animadversion."

Wilkes is here represented no more than another dissipated man; the character is drawn with a very clumsy hand, and the Dr. must be confessed to be but an indifferent portrait painter. The emulation of historians has mostly been directed to the drawing of characters; the dramatis personæ of history require an equal portion of judgment and taste to sketch with accuracy: let us examine Dr. Bisset by this test. He thus describes the celebrated Earl of Chatham. After speaking of the manner of his death, he says —'Thus died William Pitt, Earl of Chatham; his death being hastened by 'his efforts to save his country, whose interest and glory it had been the 'business of his life to promote. Many as are the examples of uncommon 'ability which English history presents, she has none to record, more forcible,

'more brilliant, or more beneficial to the times in which it operated. Surpassing other senators in glowing, energetic, and commanding eloquence, he still farther exceeded them in political wisdom; astonishing parliament as an orator, he astonished the nation and all mankind as a statesman. Rarely have been united in the same person, such powers of thought, speech, and action. Grasping the principles, circumstances, and relations of things to be considered and discussed, he instantaneously perceived the arguments to be adduced in deliberation, or the means to be employed in conduct. Sagacious to discover, rapid to invent and combine, luminous and strong to explain and impress, he was decisive and prompt in execution. He not only discerned and chose effectual means, but applied them at the instant of time which was most favourable to their efficacy. Thoroughly master of the human character, he perfectly comprehended the general and peculiar talents and qualities of all, with whom either accident, inclination, or duty, induced him to converse. Hence he selected the fittest instruments for executing, in the manifold departments of public service, his wise, bold, and sublime measures. Not his intellectual powers only, but the estimation resulting from these, in union with his moral conduct, gave to Mr. Pitt an authority far transcending that of other ministers: inaccessible to avarice, unseduced by pleasure and luxury, the abstinence of his dispositions, and the temperance of his habits, confirmed that confidence which his wisdom and magnanimity created; destined for the army, he did not receive an academic education. The ground-work of erudition was indeed laid in classical knowledge; but the superstructure was left to himself.—His studies were ethics, poetry, eloquence, history and politics; especially the history and politics of his country. Thus he was, in a great measure self-taught. His genius, though extraordinary in force and fertility, and enriched with ample materials, not being disciplined in proportion to its capacity and knowledge, did not habitually exert itself in close deduction; but for grandeur of conception and comprehensiveness of views, force of reasoning, depth of conclusion, and sagacity of prediction; strength and sublimity of imagery, and appositeness of allusion; for pathetic in every kind and variety; for wielding at will the judgment, fancies, and passions of his hearers, William Pitt stood unrivalled. [illegible] his wisdom, magnanimity, and energy, are most clearly beheld in their effects. At the beginning of the seven years war, the nation perceiving their country neglected by ministers, her arms discomfited and inglorious, and her spirit drooping and desponding, called on Mr. Pitt for relief. Unsupported by court interest, obnoxious to the confederacy which had long prevailed, his genius overpowered intrigue. He came to the highest office, when none else by holding it could save the state. Having risen exclusively by ability and himself, his chief object was to bring every kind of ability into action which could be beneficial to the country. Disdaining to govern by parties, he absorbed them all into his own vortex. From torpidity, weakness, disgrace, and dejection, he changed the condition of the nation, to ardour, strength, victory, glory, and triumph. Nor did Britain by her affection, gratitude, and admiration, or Europe by her astonishment, bear stronger testimonies of his exalted merit, than France in her hatred and terror for the name of Pitt.'

We cannot extend our limits for the comprehension of a character which is beat out to unusual length.

There is something extremely unpleasant in the writing of Dr. Bisset which we wish away,—a kind of pomp of expression, an affectation of nice deduction and subtle discrimination, which for the most part is nothing more than the unnecessary dilation of a plain idea. He is extremely wordy and ponderous in his diction, which, though generally grammatical, is wholly without

without taste and elegance. He does not indeed use uncouth words, but words in an uncouth manner; a method which he contrives to disguise trite and common sentiment by giving it an uncustomary dress. His style is a kind of a *cross breed;* it is composed after the manner of a gipsey feast; and consists in pilfering a scrap, first from one and then from another. He is pedantically ostentatious of his critical skill on literary subjects, which are unnecessarily discussed in the present history. He has very little of the impartiality he affects, though he has too much decorum for a railer. If considered as having thrown any new lights upon the busy and intricate affairs of this reign, Dr. Bisset's book must rank very low. There is nothing ingenious or splendid, deep or penetrating, in his work; all his observations are the hacknied trumpery of pamphlets, and his reasoning that of a newspaper and gazetteer.—There is unhappily so much reading before any thing can be got at from the Dr. that we are disgusted *in limine;* and when he does communicate any thing, it comes forth in such a cloud of words, that the sense is obtained with difficulty,—and of no great value when found.

Upon the whole this history has not satisfied us, whether its readers will be better pleased, is a matter they must determine for themselves.

Scenes of Youth or Rural Recollections, with other Poems, by William Holloway. Foolscap 8vo. 165 p. 4s. boards. Vernor and Hood. 1803.

MOST of these poems are in blank verse, and contain but little poetry. The author is not however deficient in description and imagery, though his verse has too near a resemblance to prose. We are concerned, to see the number of these *blank* writers encreasing. It should be remembered that very few subjects demand blank verse, and that authors should choose this metre only when it is forced upon them by the peculiarity of their matter, and not because it exempts them from the restraints and difficulties of rhime. We shall submit an extract from Mr. Holloway to our readers, but not from his altered prose—'Expostulation to a Bird started in a favourite walk'——

'Sweet native of this brake-entangled dell—
'Where, the last spring, I mark'd amidst the boughs
'Thy pensile cradle wave, and heard the trill
'Of thy soft mother's kind attentive spouse,
'Who took his stand upon the hedge-row green,
'To watch the school-boy's wild and wandering steps,
'O startle not! no stranger to this scene,
'With cruel heart, or hand felonious creeps.'

This will be enough to convince the reader that Mr. Holloway had better have devoted his time to some other employment than that of courting the muses.

Defence of the character and conduct of the late Mary Wolstonecroft Godwin, founded on the principles of nature and reason as applied to the peculiar circumstances of her case, in a series of letters, to a Lady. 12mo. 170 pp. 4s. Wallis, &c.

WE are extremely concerned that any one should prostitute his pen in defence of a woman whose principles were subversive of every establishment of religion and morals. Mary Wollstonecroft is a name which has long ceased to have influence. The vigorous pens of a More and a West have chastised her insolence and shamed her followers: the name of this woman can only now be revived to her disgace. This book is unpardonable.

Cowper illustrated by a series of views, in, or near the Park of Weston-Underwood, Bucks. Accompanied with copious descriptions, and a brief sketch of the Poet's Life. 4to. 1l. 1s. Royal 8vo. 15s. Demy 8vo. 10s. 6d. Vernor and Hood. 1803.

THE life of this amiable Poet by Dr. Hayley came under our notice in our last review but one. Whatever is here related of Cowper is confessed to be derived, for the most part, from his biographer: it will be unnecessary, therefore, to enter into any of the particulars of his life. The object of the present publication is to illustrate by engravings the scenery of the 'Task.' As far as we are qualified to pass judgment, this object is eminently accomplished: Plates more highly finished, or better executed, it has seldom been our lot to see. The descriptions which accompany them are no less satisfactory; the whole, in short, forms an excellent treat for the reader who delights in embellishments of this kind.

The Voyage Home from the Cape of Good Hope, with other Poems, relating to the Cape and States. By H. W. Tytler, M. D. 4to. 70 pp. 5s. Hatchard, 1803.

MANY of our readers will possibly remember Mr. Hastings' elegant ode on his passage to the East Indies, in imitation of Horace's

Otium Divos rogat in patenti
Prensus Ægeo.

This ode bids fair to rival it. The versification is generally mellifluous and correct; we shall transcribe a stanza—

Embark'd, impell'd by seas and wind,
The Cape of Storms we leave behind,
And skim along the main;
The less'ning shores now seem to fly;
Now nought appears except the sky,
And the green wat'ry plain.

One of the epithets might well have been spared, but altogether the ode will be very acceptable to the readers of poetry.

Calista; or, a Picture of Modern Life. A poem. In three parts. By Luke Booker, LL.D. 4to. 28 pp. 1s. 6d. Button and Son. 1803.

This work not only corresponds with its title, but even goes beyond it. The author has given us two things at once,— a picture of modern life, and modern poetry.

Glasgow. A poem. By John Mayne. 12mo. 50 pp. Cadell and Davies, 1803.

THIS poem is extremely beautiful. The author is a successful imitator of the simplicity of Burns, a man whom Scotland must revere as a poet, as long as she maintains any claim to taste and judgment. The work before us is at once vigorous and elegant: one of the stanzas shall be submitted to our readers—

O! for the Muse of Burns, sae rare,
To paint the groups that gather there!
The wives on We'n'sday's wi' their ware—
The lads and lassies
In ferlying crouds, at Glassgow fair;
And a' that passes.

We always regret the use of the Scotch dialect, and if this author could have done without it, we should have liked his poem better.

A

Narrative Poems. Composed by I. D'Israeli. 4to. 55 pp. 4s. boards. Murray. 1803.

THIS work is from one of the most learned and elegant scholars of the age.—It consists mostly of fables, or narrative poems, of a light and sprightly vein, and, for the most part, in imitation of Dryden.—The general airiness and vivacity of these poems, joined to the peculiar elegance and melody of the versification, must make them an exquisite treat to the lovers of poetry.—If we have any thing to object, it is sometimes a careless rhime and a harsh word—'stood' is made to rhime to 'gratitude', and the quaint term 'voiceless' is used.—But what is this against so many beauties—our readers will be impatient for an extract.

'A tale, addressed to a Sybarite.---

'We should first observe, that when the ancients wished to mark a man as eminently dissolute and effeminate, they called him a Sybarite:—

There lived in Sybaris a blooming boy,
A minister of love, a child of joy,
By name Anasillis—so much above
His peers in charms, the women call'd him Love,
This bird, on flutt'ring wings, refused the cage,
Nor lost a feather in his sprightly age;
From the foiled nets of beauty flew secure,
No touch could lime him, and no glance could lure,
Nor open war, nor ambuscade alarms,
Tho' beauties leagued to praise each rival's charms;
For well they knew if once his pride could fall,
The slave of one would be the slave of all.
Careless of praise an easy praise he stole,
And shewed in Sybaris a manly soul,—
For here the youth so feminine were grown,
One sex appear'd to all the wanton town—
The grace, which modesty o'er beauty throws
When the heart bounding, tints a breast of snows,
Charms not in her whose glowing limbs are bare,
As if her drapery was woven-air:—
Whose serpent tresses o'er the forehead die,
Or wind voluptuously a flaming eye—
Sweet nature, absent in their pomp of art,
Too easily they win the easy heart;
Unknown the timid wish, the fond delay;
And pleasure there, could only last a day!

The boy no nymph of Sybaris could touch,
In love they nothing give, who give too much
Nor blame Anasillis; he griev'd to find,
The private beauty with a public mind,
And justly deemed those graces not his own,
To stranger eyes solicitously shewn—

Deep in a solitude with jealous care
A hoary lover hid a child-like fair,
And from the crime the just chastisement sprung;
Himself grew older as the maid grew young.
The sex as yet unknown, the love unfelt;
Nor on a painted man, her eye had dwelt;
For age quick-sighted still complained with truth,
That artists only shower their grace on youth.---

We regret our limits will not permit a longer extract; the whole poem is exquisitely beautiful; the levity is without grossness, and the subject, though trifling, is dignified by the poetry.---To the other attractions of the work are added those of the most elegant typographic embellishments.

A Guide to all the Watering and Sea Bathing Places; with a description of the Lakes: A sketch of a tour in Wales; and Itineraries illustrated with maps and views. By the Editor of the Picture of London. 12mo. 434 pp. 12s. boards. Phillips. 1803.

THERE is a kind of itinerant library which almost every traveller possesses; and the present work may be added to it with considerable advantage. It is what it professes itself. The plates and maps are tolerably executed.

The

The Adviser; or, The Moral and Literary Tribunal, 4 vols. 12*mo.* 1l. boards. Wallis.

THE opinion we have formed of this work is not much to the author's credit; it is written for the most part with indiscriminate rancour, and awkward pedantry.—There is so much of private irritation, and malignity, that it seems written with the view of giving vent to unjust prejudice, and individual satire. The writer seems neither qualified to try the moral or literary character of any man, being, in one sense, miserably defective in the component qualities of both.—We do not hesitate to pronounce him rancorous, and uncharitable, pedantic, injudicious, and heavy. There is a great deal of private anecdote, most of which we know to be false, and a general, wanton, and careless misrepresentation of that in which almost every reader, acquainted with the common topics of the day, can correct him. What is related of a venerable arch-bishop is malicious and unfounded, and the account of the system of *fagging* at Winchester-school is shamefully exaggerated.

Thoughts on the Restriction of Payment in Specie at the Bank of England and Ireland. By Lord King. 8*vo.* 99 *pp.* 2*s.* 6d. Cadell and Davies.

THIS is a very sensible and solid pamphlet: the object of this young nobleman is to open the eyes of the country to the ruinous system of permitting such extensive issues of paper-money, which must necessarily terminate in the disappearance of the common coin of the kingdom, or the final destruction of credit. Though we do not agree with all he says, we are able to oppose little; it is no very pleasing reflection to think that the bank has been so long empowered to evade its engagements with the people, see this power perpetually renewed, and not likely to cease, whilst parliament is ever ready to sanction it. A more wise or judicious pamphlet we have not often read; the subject is sifted in all its complications; no petty cavils are indulged; no false alarms encouraged; all is rational, calm, and manly, dignified, and argumentative. In page 84, is this extract: 'A more extraordinary deviation 'from all general rules has never occurred than in that change in the system 'of our paper currency, which commenced in the Act of Suspention of '1797, and is still continued. A law to suspend the performance of con-'tract has been suffered to remain in force upwards of six years. A power 'has been committed to the directors of the bank, which is not entrusted by 'the constitution even to the executive government; a power of regulation, 'in a certain degree, the standard of the currency of the kingdom, and of 'varying this standard at their pleasure. A precedent has been establish-'ed, by which, upon any suggestion of temporary expediency, the whole 'personal property, and monied interest of the country, may be committed 'to the discretion of a commercial body, not responsible to the legislature, 'and not known to the constitution.' We are sorry that we cannot give a longer extract, but those who desire information on the subject will get the pamphlet.

Anthropaideia, or, A Tractate on General Education. By Andrew Cowan, M. D. 2 *vols,* 8*vo.* 8s. boards. Wallis.

EDUCATION is a subject on which almost every body now writes; many who have never written before, and many who have no pretensions to write at all. But the present author is of that class which is well qualified to instruct youth; whether the method he points out, and the lectures he gives, are superior to those of his cotemporaries, is another question. For our own part we think him too metaphysical and refining; his work is rather a phi-

a philosophical tract on the powers of the mind, than a book adapted to education; it is full of crude science and speculation, but contains no rational plan for the accomplishment of his object. This gentleman we believe would have made a good figure in the days when society was less corrupt, but his system is not adapted to modern refinement.—Every man must write to his own age;—violent innovation never yet produced any lasting good;—whatever truly beneficial is derived to mankind, has been the result of gradual and almost imperceptible change.

Letters on the Importance of the Female Sex; with Observations on their Manners, and on Education. By Miss Hatfield. 12mo. 140 *pp.* 3s. 6d. Vernor and Hood. 1803.

THE first thing to be observed in this book is the strangeness of the title.—Who doubts the importance of the female sex?—The soothers of life,—the partners of our labours,—and much more if we were inclined to say it. This subject is completely worn out: the changes have been so perpetually rung upon the present frivolities in the education of women, the dissipated turn they acquire at fashionable schools, and their introduction into life, before the principles are settled, and the character formed, that it is extremely disgusting to listen to the same chiming, unless it be made to take in a greater compass of sounds and more variety of music. The present authoress must be confessed to have added nothing new; and this is a topic on which something new must be said, or nothing at all. The book is neatly printed, but we are afraid wants the *stamina* to sustain itself.

A Mythological Dictionary; containing an accurate Account of the Gods, Demi-gods, Goddesses, and Heroes, &c. &c. for the Use of Schools. 3s. boards. Crosby and Co. 1803.

THIS book will be extremely useful; it is recommended by its size, price, and variety of contents. A pocket mythology was much wanted; Lempriere's Dictionary, however excellent, was too large for common use; the present work is not intended to supersede Lempriere, for it is, in fact, no more than an abridgment, but to make it more useful by reducing its principal contents to an accommodating size. It is printed very carefully, and the accents are properly adjusted, a fault we have often lamented in more scientific books. We can safely recommend this mythology to the use of those for whom it is designed.

An Enquiry into the Colonial Policy of the European Powers. By Henry Brougham, jun. Esq. F. R. S. 2 *vols.* 8vo. 18s. bds. Longman and Rees. 1803.

THE author thus explains the plan of his work, which it is necessary to abridge: 'The colonial policy of a state is rendered complete by the circumstances of its local situation, the different stages of improvement in which the different parts of the empire are generally found to exist, and the various relations which naturally arise from those diversities, and which subsist between the mother country and the colony, somewhat in the same manner as if they formed separate communities. The nature of these relations, and modifications, form the first book. The policy of every state may be regarded as it relates either to the domestic and independent affairs of that state, or to their connection with the affairs of foreign nations. These two branches of policy are, however, intimately related to each other. The consideration of its foreign relations, therefore, depends upon the domestic relations of the state, and of all the parts which are comprehended

'hended in its dominions. This leads us to view, first, the relations of the 'different colonies among themselves, or the relations of the different mem- 'bers of the colonial commonwealth; and, then, the relations of the members 'of the European commonwealth, as influenced by the colonial relations. 'The former of these subjects is discussed in the second book, the latter is 'treated of in the third. The views of a state are naturally directed, first, 'to the preservation of its own dominions; secondly, to the maintenance of 'subordination, and political union. The preservation of colonial rela- 'tions, the defence of the colonies, and their internal peace and prosperity, 'form the subject of the fourth and last book.'

Thus heavily is unfolded the design of this book, which is notwithstanding curious and instructive. The wisdom of colonial government is a lesson which England has yet to learn, and from the neglect of which she has suffered greatly. The views which are taken of the state of our colonies, the methods prescribed for their improvement, and encrease of their importance, are for the most part judicious, though the author, with the usual zeal of a theorist, presses his speculations farther than practice will warrant. But his book is full of important observation, and his political discernment will, we trust, be justified by events. There is one objection which we have to the work, that it is written in a style wholly without taste or elegance. The meaning is frequently buried under a load of words, and its value is much depreciated by the rust of pedantry.

FRENCH BOOKS.

Voyage pittoresque et historique de l'Istrie et de la Dalmatie, &c. Travels, picturesque and historical, in Istria and Dalmatia. Compiled from the Journal of L. F. Cassas by Joseph Lavallée. Embellished with plates, maps, and plans, designed on the spot by Cassas. Folio. VIII, and 190 pp. of text, 64 plates, and numerous vignettes, 210 fr. fine pap. 350 fr.

A SOCIETY of amateurs of the arts, of romantic scenery, and remarkable remains of antiquity, formed the design of procuring drawings of picturesque objects in the vicinity of Trieste. These were to be engraved and published at Vienna. The Emperor Joseph II, interested himself in the design, and encouraged the projectors. M. Cassas, who then resided at Rome, was pitched upon to take the drawings. But that distinguished artist did not confine himself to taking views of the environs of Trieste; he thought very justly that he should render considerable service to the arts by likewise visiting the provinces of Istria and Dalmatia, that contain remarkable monuments of antiquity, of which he proposed to take designs. The flattering picture which M. Cassas held out to some of his friends, of the interest that a tour like this must inspire, induced several of them to accompany him; but almost all of them were soon discouraged, principally by the fatigues and dangers they had to encounter. M. Grappin, an advocate and man of letters, was the only person that never left M. Cassas during the whole of his Travels. The dangers to which the traveller is exposed in these parts are of two kinds; the perilous navigation along a coast among islets and rocks, where shipwrecks are very frequent; and the dangers from pirates, to whom this coast offers so many retreats, are neither less real nor less frequent.

The town, environs and monuments of Pola employed M. Cassas' pencil, and furnished him during his first tour, and after his return with many beautiful designs, with engravings of which the present work is embellished. Tradition denominates some ruins observed at Pola, Julia's palace; the author thinks that if there be any ground for the appellation, this Julia must have been Julia Domina, the wife of Septimus Severus who remained there whilst her

her husband marched towards Rome against his rival Didius Julianus. Near the harbour of Pola is an edifice called by the natives Orlando's tower; even the amphitheatre of Pola is vulgarly termed Orlandina, or edifice of Orlando. To explain these denominations the author of the text advances the following conjecture, but which he professes to be nothing more than conjecture. The time in which Ariosto lived was distinguished for the great number of banditti who then infested Italy. Ariosto as is well known was governor of part of the Appenines, and by his prudence and resolution succeeded in clearing his government of these plunderers, and even inspired them with respect. It is likewise known that he was once surprised by robbers whilst walking alone in the country, and that they treated him with every possible respect as soon as they discovered who he was, assuring him that they knew how to make a distinction between the great poet and the governor. Hence it appears they could not be strangers to Ariosto's productions. Some of these banditti the author supposes were brought by some accident to the vicinity of Pola; the sight of the venerable ruins of the place reminded them of the descriptions in Ariosto's Orlando Furioso; hence they gave these structures the name of Orlandina, the tower or edifice of Orlando; and these denominations were gradually adopted by the natives.

The island of Veggia, or Veglia, one of those situated on the Dalmatian coast, and ceded to the Venetians by Count John Frangipani in the 15th century, is described by geographers as extremely rich and fertile. The short stay made there by M. Cassas was sufficient to convince him that it is rocky, dry, and badly cultivated; that in particular it does not produce the quantity of silk and wine that it is said to do.

At Zara, the most considerable place belonging to the Venetians upon the continent, our travellers were so cordially received by Doctor Stratico, a gentleman of great learning and talents, and Captain Gerousi, a very amiable and accomplished man, that they soon forgot the dangers they had just escaped in their passage from Veggia to Zara. 'According to Fortis,' says the editor of these travels, 'Zara has risen in prosperity rather than fal-'len into decay.' M. Cassas is of a contrary opinion; every thing tends to convince him that, on the contrary, it was once a place of far greater importance than at present; since the ruins of certain public edifices, which, from their nature must have been within the town, are now a considerable distance without the walls, which at present are not above two miles in circumference, and scarcely inclose 4 or 5000 inhabitants. From its situation on a peninsula Zara is, however, still a town of considerable consequence, and was the residence of the Proveditor-General of Dalmatia. The Roman antiquities have not experienced the same respect at Zara as at Pola; and though it contained as many splendid edifices as the latter place, the traces of them are far less numerous. Not a vestige of its amphitheatre remains; it was completely destroyed when the fortifications were erected. Its site is now occupied by a half-moon. The most ancient monument, and in the best preservation, is the triumphal arch, which now forms the gate called San Grigona, or St. Chrysogone, leading to the port. M. Cassas conceives that this gate was constructed with the ruins of a triumphal arch at the town of Nona, of which we shall presently treat. The pediment of this gate is not supported by two columns as represented by Spon; but by two pilasters of the Corinthian order; the base of these two pilasters is quite gone; they are hollowed out about where the arch of the gate commences, so that not only about two thirds of them are wanting, but likewise the whole of the sub-basements, and there is no part of them in tolerable preservation but the capitals, and part of the shaft. This gate is represented in plate 28. Near the church of St. Helia, at Zara, are likewise to be seen two magnificent fluted columns of the Corinthian order, the architrave, capitals, plinth, and

base of which are in the best style of architecture. M. Cassas also saw many inscriptions at Zara, which render it a subject of regret that the monuments to which they belonged are no longer in existence.

One of the greatest wants experienced at Zara is that of water, which is extremely scarce. Some remains of an aqueduct, which M. Cassas went to see in its vicinity, prove, that in ancient times, it was necessary to have recourse to extraordinary means to procure it. Nothing is known with certainty concerning the founder of the aqueduct, its extent, or the place where it received the water which it conveyed to Zara. Traces of it are discoverable at a considerable distance from the town.

Among the men most distinguished for their talents and their urbanity, who were eager to welcome M. Cassas to Zara, and of whom we have already mentioned two, he names doctor Antonio Danieli, who possesses one of the most curious cabinets in that country, and who politely shewed our traveller every thing that it contained. The decorations of his house are sufficient to shew his taste for the arts. He may be said to be surrounded with the ruins of Roman magnificence. The remains of Nona in particular, a town not far distant from Zara, have furnished him with the most numerous specimens. This town which is entirely in ruins, is at present but a miserable village, the soil of which conceals innumerable vestiges of its ancient splendor. The researches made by Dr. Danieli at Nona, at his own expence, have furnished him with many curious relics. Among their number are four antique colossal statues of alabaster, which form part of the ornaments of the house inhabited by this learned man. He possesses a very beautiful collection of Roman medals, three Grecian tables, procured by him from the island of Lissa, which Fortis has likewise seen, and which he considers as having formed part of some decree, and being the fragments of the signatures of the senators. He has also a fine collection of stones belonging to various antique edifices, and brought from different parts of Dalmatia; among these is an inscription which Spon saw at the house of M. Tommasoni. It is that which was consecrated to Tiberius by the eleventh legion, under the direction of Publius Cornelius Dolabella. M. Cassas likewise saw, at Zara, an urn, found also in the ruins of Nona, of which plate 28 is a representation.

In his passage to Spalatro M. Cassas touched at Sebenico, the largest town of Dalmatia, the foundation of which is by J. B. Giustiniano, attributed to the Uscoques, and which was distinguished in the 16th century by many men of talents in the arts and sciences.

M. Cassas made a short stay at Sebenico; having resolved to take a view of the cascade of the Kirka, he was obliged to proceed further into the interior of the country. Going by the canal which separates the lake of Sebenico from the lake of Scardona, he soon arrived at the last-mentioned place, now called Skardin by the Turks. He went no further than the fifth cascade of the Kirka, which is the most majestic. M. Cassas gives two fine views of it in plates 29 and 30. Before he embarked again for Spalatro he surveyed the valley and village of Slosella. The scenery of this valley is frightful from the aridity of the mountains, their deep clefts, and the sterility of the soil, or rather dust which collects in their crevices. In this corner of the earth vegetates a tribe the most savage, or rather the most brutalized and destitute of understanding, of any in all Dalmatia, and, perhaps, on the whole continent. This truly degraded tribe possesses no instinct but that of destruction. In the district inhabited by it, not a blade of corn, not a fruit-tree, shrub, or useful plant of any description, is to be seen; these senseless and improvident wretches tear up every thing that the earth is inclined to produce for their nourishment;

ourishment; and, as an instance of their inconceivable imbecility, while they destroy trees, grain, and even grass, they shew respect to thorns, thistles, and briars, so that having madly deprived themselves of every vegetable capable of furnishing the means of protracting their deplorable existence they are obliged to feed upon insects, fish, or muscles which the sea casts on their shores, or which the compassion of the fishermen of the neighbouring parts bestows upon their disgusting indigence Without industry, care, energy, and probably even ideas, they sit the whole day at the doors of their miserable huts, or on the rocks which surround them. Their features are haggard, their complexions tanned by the sun, and darkened by misery. Their looks are expressive of fear; their hair black and flowing; their habit of body meagre; their limbs slender and disproportioned. They are more timid than wicked; more brutal than ferocious; the most simple ideas never reach their minds; they are equally incapable of comprehending, recollecting, or imitating, and do not appear to imagine that any thing in the world can be either useful, convenient, or even agreeable. It would be an insult to humanity to call them savages; they possess neither their candour, simplicity, courage, nor spirit of independence; savages are the first link in the grand chain of mankind, and these people appear to be the last. Their origin is unknown, but they are said to have been at one time formidable to the Turks. Probably they may be some wretched remnant of the Uscoques, who being held in general detestation, and being reduced by the chance of war, or other calamities, have lost for ever, under the lash of terror, both the sensation of their misfortunes and of their misery; in whom not only the dignity of human nature, but likewise the faculties of the understanding, together with reason itself, are extinguished.

These observations of M. Cassas agree with those made by the Abbé Fortis. That gentleman, speaking of the natural history of this part of the country of Sebenico, and, among other things, of the great number of fish cast in various seasons of the year on the strand of Slosella, expresses himself as follows:—'Notwithstanding the abundance and the variety of 'these fish, the indolent inhabitants of Slosella neglect every method by 'which they might be turned to advantage; they are contented to live from 'hand to mouth, and devour without bread, and frequently without any 'kind of preparation, all the fish they take. In spring these silly peasants live entirely upon cuttle fish. They take them by immersing in the 'water branches of trees to which this fish adheres for the purpose of depositing its spawn; and if to procure even this sustenance a more complicated contrivance were necessary, I believe they would starve rather 'than take the trouble to employ it. They are equally enemies to their 'own welfare and that of others, so that, to prevent the introduction of 'large nets, attempted by their lord, (the abbé Jerome Draganich Varenzio, of whom Fortis speaks elsewhere), they threw large stones into 'all the deep waters along the shore, though they would have been of infinite advantage to them.'

Not far from this valley of Slosella, upon an island now called the island of Morter, is supposed to have stood the Colentum mentioned by Pliny. lib. 3. cap. 21. The ruins of it that remain are of so little importance that M. Cassas did not think them of sufficient interest for a drawing. They consist only of some fragments of walls, and cornices in a good style; antique vases, and sculptured stones, but which are much worn. There have likewise been found some medals, and inscriptions, but these have been taken away by amateurs. The soil of this island,

doubtless, conceals abundance of riches of this kind, which it would be of importance both to geography and history to discover, but which the suspicious jealousy of the inhabitants prevents being sought for. With the inhabitants of many other districts they still resent the ingratitude with which they were some time since repaid for the labour they bestowed on this kind of researches. The Turks likewise, having more than once visited these places, are no strangers either to their ignorance or their prejudices, and like them are ready to believe that these researches dictated by science have no other object than the discovery of hidden treasures; and in consequence of this opinion their avarice inclines them to preserve what they, however, will not give themselves the trouble to seek themselves.

The island of Morter, the shores of which are not much interrupted by rocks, rises gradually towards the centre, and it is said that, on the summit of this hill, the principal ruins of the ancient town were formerly to be seen; but though this island, like all the rest of the coast, is an uninterrupted quarry of marble, in general of excellent quality, yet the inhabitants, to avoid the trouble of working these quarries, were such barbarians as to destroy what remained of the edifices of Colentum for the purpose of building the walls of a church dedicated to the Madonna di Gradina.

Having embarked again at Sebenico M. Cassas sailed to Spalatro without stopping any where on his passage; during which he took a general view of the coast of Dalmatia, between tbe Trau and Spalatro, from the middle of the channel; it is the 37th plate of the work.

Spalatro afforded our traveller an abundant harvest, and though he was prevented from making any long stay there, he employed his time to the best advantage in drawing the different monuments which that town contains. Before he left Spalatro, M. Cassas likewise visited the ruins of Salona, the birth-place of Dioclesian and his residence after his abdication of the imperial dignity till his palace at Spalatro was completed. Between Spalatro and Salona are to be seen several arches of the aqueduct for the conveyance of water to the former town. This aqueduct too is probably a work of Dioclesian's magnificence. The road from Spalatro to Salona crosses the arches that are left standing and contributes to render the scenery there extremely striking. It is represented by M. Cassas in plate 57. On the left the aqueduct appears to issue from a lofty mountain, while on the right it penetrates into the valley crosses a thick wood, and its arches towering above the tops of the trees form a feature equally graceful and majestic.

If we compare the state of the ruins of Salona at the present time, or even when Spon saw them 127 years since, with the picture given of them by the senator J. B. Giustiniani in a valuable manuscript, written about the year 1550, and with which Fortis was acquainted, it is incontestible that their destruction has been ten times as rapid within the last two centuries as during the space of the 1400 years preceding. The following is extracted from his description:—

"The grandeur and magnificence of the ancient town of Salona may be conceived from the ruins that still remain: namely, the vaults and arches of a most extraordinary theatre, large blocks of the most beautiful marble, which lie dispersed in the fields, a noble column composed of three pieces of marble, which is still standing in a place near the sea, where, as it is said, the arsenal was situated; many admirable arches supported by marble columns a stone's throw in height, upon which passes an

an aqueduct, intended to convey water from Salona to Spalatro. There are likewise to be seen the ruins of large palaces and ancient epitaphs on many beautiful stones; but the soil which is gradually rising and encreasing, has covered the most ancient and the most valuable monuments."

As this account is by an eye-witness, and a man familiar with the country from his birth and employments, we scarcely can allow ourselves to credit his veracity. Hence it may be presumed that the encroachments of the soil of which he complains have considerably encreased since that period; not only the vaults and arcades of the wonderful theatre no longer exist, but it would be impossible at present to determine the situation which they occupied; some of the large blocks of marble mentioned in the narrative, are still lying on the ground; but the beautiful column shewing where the arsenal stood has entirely disappeared. None of the walls now standing afford the idea of large palaces, temples, porticos, and the numerous materials with which the ground is encumbered, are in confused heaps. With regard to the inscriptions seen by Giustiniani, Fortis says that a laborious amateur of Spalatro had made a very curious collection, but has hitherto obstinately refused to make public his discoveries. Fortis himself has not published those which he transcribed on the spot; but says that he preserves them for one of his friends, Count Jerome Silvestre di Rovigo. Any of the beautiful fragments of Salona can only be recovered by researches, which it would be so much the more easy and less expensive to make as the spot is uncultivated and deserted.

From Salona, M. Cassas likewise went to see the great cascade of the Cettina called Velika Gubowitza (plate 58). For two months subsequent to his departure from Rome, he had not rested a single day. Fatigues by sea were continually succeeded by fatigues by land, and yet in this period of time, so short when compared to his labours, he had found means to collect the beautiful series of picturesque views which embellish the work in question, and are an honourable testimony to the fertility and facility of his pencil, and likewise his ardour in the cause of the arts.

He embarked, 24th of July, for the purpose of returning to Trieste, and from thence to Venice. After a favourable passage of seventeen days, six of which he stopped at Pola in order to complete his drawings of the monuments he had before admired, he arrived at Trieste, 10th of August, 1782. From Trieste M. Cassas proceeded on the road towards Vienna, to take views of the romantic scenery about the castle of Luegg, or Predjama, situated near the lake of Cirknitz, the fall of Ruecca, the castle of Novoscoglio, San-Canciano, &c. These form the subjects of the last engravings in the work. They are in general well executed, and many of them make beautiful pictures. Among the many and splendid picturesque tours, published in the latter half of the 18th century, that of M. Cassas cannot fail to hold a distinguished rank.

Œuvres de P. Corneille; Works of P. Corneille with Voltaire's Commentary on the dramatic pieces, and critical observations on that commentary. By M. Palissot, 12 vols. 8vo.

BY this publication the editor has performed a real service to literature. Ever since the editions published with commentaries by Voltaire the text has invariably been regulated by them in all subsequent impressions, although many alterations were made from the original. M. Palissot has restored it to its original purity and corrects in his notes a great number of opinions either

either too hastily pronounced or dictated by a sarcastic spirit or a fastidious taste.

Thus the peculiar merit of this edition consists in the correctness of the text and the notes; the latter we cannot pass over without some notice.—Their author had in view the vindication of the glory of Corneille from the attacks of his celebrated commentator, but without violating that respect which his genius and reputation demand.

At the period when Voltaire wrote his commentary there still existed a multitude of professed partisans of Corneille who like Mme de Sevigné placed Racine at an immense distance below Racine. They consequently removed Voltaire to a distance infinitely greater. In their opinion he possessed wit with little judgment and no genius. Though he had already written his Henriade, Œdipe, Brutus, Zaire, la Mort de Cesar, Merope, Mahomet, no author could have ventured upon a comparison between him and Corneille without exposing himself to the smile of indignant contempt. This opinion originally established by Fontenelle, la Motte, J. B. Rousseau, Crebillon, Marivaux, Piron, &c. was adopted by the whole circle of the wits of the age, by their echos and even by the players themselves, with the exception of Mlles. Dumesnil and Clairon and the celebrated Le Kain. It is not surprising that the ardent spirit and ambitious mind of Voltaire was exasperated at such excessive injustice.

He was no less irritated at the abuses lavished on Racine of whom he was the professed admirer. All these circumstances if they did not excite in his breast a malevolence against Corneille, at least produced a disposition to treat him with greater severity than he would otherwise have done, if his splendid name had not been abused for the purpose of traducing Racine and humbling himself. 'Such is the propensity of the human mind, adds the 'annotator, and the delicate and irritable sensibility of Voltaire could 'scarcely be expected to have been exempted from this general law.'

It was from similar motives that, after having in all his preceding works professed for Boileau an esteem bordering on veneration, after having bestowed on him the most unqualified praises, both in his poems and his conversations with his most intimate friends he involuntarily changed his sentiments and his language because the Abbé Batteux thought proper to write a parallel between the Henriade and the Lutrin. From that moment Voltaire never spoke of Boileau but with the utmost dryness; he even addressed an angry epistle to him beginning with the two following extraordinary lines:

Boileau, correct auteur de quelques bons écrits,
Zoile de Quinault et flatteur de Louis.

He even went so far as to conceive a violent hatred to the very name of Lutrin. He never suffered it to escape either from his pen or his lips, 'and with the 'exception of a single instance, in his questions on the *Encyclopedie*, in the 'article *Bouffon*, into which nobody could have expected to see the Lutrin 'introduced; and here he mentioned it only for the purpose of ranking it 'very far below Garth's Dispensary, which approaches much nearer the 'burlesque of Scarron than the vivacity of Boileau's muse.'

It was not that he had become jealous of Boileau whom he had always denominated the legislator of taste; but the ill humor excited by injustice was sufficient to render him in his turn unjust. The same observation applies to his conduct with respect to Corneille, and this disposition added to his natural inclination to satire produced those peevish attacks and those too frequent sallies of irony which he introduced into his commentary. Without feeling the sentiment of jealousy he might have been much too severe against Corneille and have contracted a kind of hatred or at least aversion without being able to account for it, or perhaps dissembling its motives from himself.

This sentiment may be considered a weakness or even an injustice; it may have produced effects resembling jealousy, but not at all analogous to that passion.

From this explanation the justice of which will be readily admitted, it is obvious that a man possessing such sound judgment as M. Palissot would maintain in his notes that tone of decency which the name of Voltaire commands and that he has exactly chosen that course which it was necessary to take in order to be in some degree an umpire between Voltaire and Corneille. The only occasions and these are not unfrequent, in which he gives way to any thing like spleen, are when Voltaire cavils with Corneille without occasion or unjustly inveighs against him. He then defends his author by examples taken from Voltaire himself; this is honorable warfare and even the irascible disposition of Voltaire could not with propriety resent it.

The editor's labor begins, properly speaking, at the third volume with the Cid and concludes at the seventh with Sertorius. It is not in the first of these volumes that it is least conspicuous. Voltaire restrained by the universally acknowledged reputation of the Cid, of Horace and Cinna, cavilled but little and blamed little or at least with moderation and reserve. He begins to take greater liberties in *Polyeuete*, in *la Mort de Pompee*; when he gets to *Theodore* he exceeds all bounds and having once assumed the tone of invective, he scarcely changes it even for *Heraclius* or *Rodogune*. Here then the editor follows him more closely and more frequently corrects him. Voltaire shews no mercy to Corneille when bowed beneath the weight of years: M. Pallisot recals him to the respect he ought ever to have imposed on himself and frequently proves that his criticisms are open to censure both on account of their substance and their form.

He not only takes occasion to correct the false opinions of the commentator on various passages in Corneille's works, or on some occasions on the conduct of his pieces and the characters of his dramatis personæ, he likewise attempts a refutation of certain anti-poetic heresies broached by Voltaire, which he did not fail to introduce into his commentary and which he employs as the ground-work of unjust criticisms. The utility of this kind of observations is most obvious. They may contribute to restore the true principles of poetic taste, which are singularly neglected in later years.

One of these heresies most familiar to Voltaire and his school is the following: 'To judge if verses are bad transform them into prose; if the prose 'be incorrect, the verses are incorrect too. Poetry should possess the 'perspicuity and purity of the most correct prose.' This method of forming an opinion on poetry, as the editor justly observes, would be at the same time defective and impracticable, for independent of a multitude of expressions exclusively belonging to poetry and the inversions which cause such a material difference between it and prose, it has constructions so peculiar to itself as not to admit of this kind of translation into prose. To prevent its appearing frequently, if not barbarous, at least very strange, it would be necessary to subjoin supplements, which poetry disdains, or to sacrifice to that precision, indispensably requisite in prose. Hence it would result that what in poetic composition is not only an allowable liberty, but a beauty would become odd or ridiculous and inadmissible in prose.' This reasoning he illustrates and supports by many happy examples and proves that 'Voltaire has evidently confounded the ideas and kinds of composition by 'proposing the precision of prose as a model for poets, while on the con'trary it is poetry that ought sometimes to be held up to the emulation of 'prose.'

Another error which Voltaire was in the habit of repeating and which he had succeeded in bringing into fashion is that every metaphor which does not furnish a true and sensible image and which a painter is unable to represent

present, is bad. This, he says, is a rule which admits of no exception. The editor likewise refutes this maxim by numerous examples from Corneille and Racine and which he might have multiplied ad infinitum by consulting all the best poets. He concludes the note in which he reasons on this subject by extracting two metaphors from Voltaire's best works, as instances of absolutely faulty metaphor; of what the ablest painter cannot represent and what a good poet ought to be ashamed to write.

With regard to the more minute criticisms which are not susceptible of an extract they may all in general be pronounced just and the editor of Corneille always has the advantage when he differs from his Commentator. It may be said that he has not differed from him so often as he ought. It may be thought by his passing unnoticed many misplaced criticisms that he approves of them. Indeed it may upon the whole be asserted that he has opposed Voltaire with all the respect that was due to him, but that he has not boldly entered the lists with him so often as he might, nor gone such lengths as the champion of Corneille could and ought to have done.

In all the good editions of Corneille, his own observations on his plays are placed at the end of each; Scudery's criticism and the observations of the Academy on the Cid, at the conclusion of that tragedy, &c. The new editor has preferred collecting all these different pieces in the tenth volume. The advantages of the former order and the inconvenience of the present must be apparent to every one.

The imitation of Jesus Christ, translated into verse occupies the 12th volume. Though inferior to the rest of his works yet it contains many beauties worthy of Corneille and others of a nature to which his genius would not have been expected to adapt itself so easily. This translation is preceded by a letter by M. Francois (de Neufchateau) in which these different degrees of merit are perfectly appreciated and which itself posseses the merit of being an admirable literary performance.

Vies et Œuvres des Peintres les plus celebres de toutes les Ecoles, &c. Lives and Works of the most celebrated painters of every School; reduced and engraved from prints in the National Library and the principal private Collections. Published by C. P. Landon. Vol. 1. 4to. 25 fr.—folio, fine pap. 50.

WITHIN these few years men of letters and artists animated by a laudable emulation have published numerous treatises and collections with a view to diffuse a knowledge of the principles and productions of the Fine Arts. The arrival of the chefs d'œuvres from Italy has given renewed activity and furnished fresh materials for such undertakings in France.—Whatever merit most of those useful works may possess we conceive that M. Landon's is not inferior in that respect to any of them.

The author's intention was to collect the complete works of the most celebrated painters as Raphael, Michael Angelo, Dominiquin, Rubens, Poussin and others; and as a great number of artists who are not placed in the first rank, have left behind them very valuable works, M. Landon proposes to include in his collection their best pieces and thus to form a complete work, highly interesting and of a kind entirely new.

Nothing can be more useful to the student who wishes to go through a course of the fine arts than to be able to embrace in one view the compositions of the great masters and thus to compare each of them with his rivals and with himself. With the aid of such a collection he may follow step by step the progress of the great masters; he sees in how many different points of view they have regarded the same objects and how far the difference of their characters, their acquirements and taste, influenced their manner of

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thinking. He even remarks the rocks, on which the ablest painters could not preserve themselves from striking and the knowledge of their faults is not less useful than that of their beauties. With a judgment corrected by these indispensable studies, the youthful artist feels the necessity of producing in his turn, some work honorable to himself, his country and the age in which he lives.

He who has a predilection for the arts, without practising them, will likewise survey M. Landon's collection with considerable pleasure, it will recal agreeable recollections by reminding him of the chefs d'oeuvres which he has reminded at different periods and in twenty different places. These considerations will doubtless contribute to give great publicity to the work before us. The moderate price put upon it attests that the love of the arts was the principal motive for its publication and its chief object, the satisfaction of those who delight in them.

The first volume comprehends the life of Dominiquin. The author enters into very interesting details relative to that great artist. He describes him as adopting this profession in consequence of an irresistible impulse, his early success, the long persecutions occasioned by it, the inveterate malice of his rivals which at length brought him to the grave, before he had attained the complete enjoyment of the fame which he had merited. This piece is written with much warmth and sentiment; it is a pledge of the interest which the author is capable of infusing into this portion of the work.

Among the sixty plates composing the first volume of the Complete Works of Dominiquin we find his portrait and part of his admirable productions as the Communion of St. Jerome, the Martyrdom of St. Sebastien, Eneas carrying his father Anchises, the Martyrdom of St. Agnes, the Virgin of the Rosary, the pictures of the life of St. Cecilia, the sports of Diana and her Nymphs. The correctness and expression for which Dominiquin was particularly celebrated are faithfully preserved. The engravings are executed by several artists and we do not conceive that in a work of this nature greater attention could have been bestowed on the general execution or the detail of the parts.

Memoire sur un Graphometre souterrain. Memoir on a subterranean Graphometer proposed to be substituted for the compass, in Mines; By General Komarzewski formerly in the Polish service. Folio, with two plates, 6 fr. The same with the text in German, 7 fr. 50 c. The same in English 7 fr. 50.

THIS Memoir explains the use and gives a detailed description of an instrument capable of supplying the place of the Compass, or any other of a like nature that have hitherto been used in subterraneous operations. The compass in other respects so valuable, has some defects particularly observable in operations of the kind just mentioned. The needle is too easily set in vibration and with difficulty rendered stationary, and besides which it can only measure the angles of direction. The necessity of measuring those of inclination has occasioned the addition of another instrument as slow as it is inconvenient. Another circumstance, for which there is no remedy in mines, is, that, besides iron and nickel which are found almost every where, they contain many other bodies subject to magnetic attraction, which render the compass perfectly useless. This last inconvenience which it is frequently difficult to discover when the effect is weak, is much more frequent than is generally imagined; for there are not only rocks and minerals that contain iron and which even possess polarity, without our being able to perceive the metal in them, but, according to the experiments of M. Coulomb, there is scarcely any substance that does not contain a portion of it. M. Gillet

Laumont, a member of the National Institute tried above 300 pieces of brass before he could find one that did not act in some degree on the magnetic needle.

To the above inconveniences of the compass, may lastly be added that of being affected by the electric property acquired by the glass which covers the needle, when it is rubbed in order to remove bodies that are frequently falling upon it under ground, and the difficulty of joining plans made at different times, if mean while the needle has varied in its direction, or if the precaution has not been taken to mark upon the plan the meridian of the spot.

In order to divide all these various errors there have long been in use in Germany and France, divided circles which shew the angles without the necessity of having a magnetic needle; but these circles can only be employed for the directions, and are liable to many errors when the subterranean galleries are not formed upon the same plan.

For the same reason the Council of Mines, in France, long wished to discontinue the use of the compass in the mines, notwithstanding its convenience. The instrument proposed by M. Komarzewski appears to possess the requisites of a complete substitute for it. The subterranean Graphometer measures at one and the same time the direction, inclination and distance, without being subject to any of the defects inseparable from the compass. It has been tried with equal attention and success in the mines of Freyberg in Saxony, in the presence of the most skilful engineers and professors and the result of these experiments is detailed in the Memoir here announced. It concludes with the report of the persons commissioned by the National Institute to examine the instrument presented by M. Komarzewski to the Society. From their report it appears that the subterranean Graphometer will be found an advantageous substitute for the instruments before used in the mines, without being liable to any of their defects, and that the author ought to be requested to have them engraved, in order to their being made by French artists and introduced into the Mines.

The two plates which accompany the Memoir, and all the details which it contains, appear completely to meet the wishes of the Commissioners of the Institute on this subject.

Memoires publiées par la Societé libre d'Emulation du department du Var; Memoirs published by the Society of Emulation of the department of the Var.—Vol. 1. 270 pp. 8vo.

PREFIXED to this volume is the Decree of the prefect of the department of the Var for the institution of the Society, its regulations, the list of its members and the programme of the prizes it has offered. The following are the memoirs contained in this volume:

1. On manures that have not undergone fermentation, by M. Ladevese; 2. on the means of obtaining in the southern provinces of France, pot-ash for the manufacture of salt-petre in more considerable quantity, and at less expence; by M. Gerard; 3. a report by M. Favre on the means of procuring spring-water in the commune of Frejus; 4. observations and remarks on the Tenia by M. Perolle and observations on the Cow-pox by the same; 5. a dissertation on the question: by what means can agriculture be made to flourish in a State? by M. Suzanne; 6. a comparative table of the silk manufactures in the department of the Var from 1789 to 1801; 7. a memoir of M. Fabre on the means of forming artificial streams and supplying natural streams and rivers for the purpose of irrigation, interior navigation, mills, &c.

Botanique

Botanique des Enfans, an histoire naturelle generale et particuliere du regne vegetal: Botany for Children; or the Natural History, general and particular, of the vegetable kingdom. 8vo. with 14 plates 8 fr.

THIS work contains: 1. the elementary letters of J. J. Rousseau on Botany; 2. a supplementary introduction to the study of that science; 3. the description of above 4000 species of European plants divided according to the Linnæan system into classes, orders, sections, genera, species and varieties, with an index to Latin and French of the genera, another of the families and of the common French names of the species and a complete vocabulary of all the technical terms.

This is a truly elementary work, and will be found useful not only by children and their instructors, but likewise by all the amateurs of Botany of both sexes, who with its assistance will be enabled to recognize and name all the European and also many exotic plants.

Politique d'Aristote; The Politics of Aristotle, translated from the Greek with notes and explanations; by Charles Milon. 3 vols. 8vo. 12 fr. 50.

TO this translation of Aristotle's Politics, have been annexed a notice on Aristotle and his works; a chronological list of the editions of them, several extracts from Plato and the two treatises of Xenophon on the republics of Athens and Sparta.

Of this treatise which contains the true principles of social order, and furnishes the ground work for a solid government, there was already a very good French translation by M. Champagne. Both of them possess the merit of perspicuity and elegance. The value of the present work is considerably enhanced by the notice on the life of Aristotle, and the translation of the extracts from Plato and Xenophon.

Petite Bibliotheque des Enfans; Library for Children, translated from the German; by the Abbé J. D. Grand Mollet. 2 vols. 12s.

The two volumes composing this collection consist of tales, stories and short dramatic pieces for the amusement of children. Each of these tends to recommend some virtue, or to expose the inconveniences of some vice. The work is not only a moral collection presented to youth under an agreeable form, but likewise a safe guide to parents and instructors. It shews them, as the translator very judiciously observes, the means they ought to employ to gain the confidence of children and to obtain of them all they can expect.

It may be objected that the author has not followed any regular plan and has intermixed precepts suited to more mature age with such lessons as are addressed to those who are just beginning to use their reason. The reader passes all at once from a moral story the aim of which is of no great importance to some historic trait tending to inspire the youth at his entrance into the world with courage against those misfortunes which he may have to encounter. A more judicious order and a better classification of subjects would doubtless have augmented the utility of the work.

Les Voyageurs en Suisse: The Travellers in Switzerland. By E. F. Lantier author of the Travels of Antenor. 3 vols. 8vo.

THE merited success of the travels of Antenor notwithstanding the bitter, and in general unjust invectives of criticism has established the author's claim to rank among the most agreeable and amusing writers of the age. His book cannot fail to gratify every reader by the charming variety

of entertainment and instruction it affords; and there is none who would not consider a few historical anachronisms a few slight defects in style and coloring, a few innocent extravagancies of the imagination, abundantly counterbalanced by elegance and animation of style, and uninterrupted vivacity. The work is in every library, and in every memory. If the man of letters more frequently consults that admirable work, Anacharsis, for the history, manners and customs of Greece, perhaps the man of the world, the superficial reader and the fair sex have found in Antenor a more attractive method of obtaining information on the same subjects; and the author's aim, which appears to have been to inspire them with a taste for it, has been completely fulfilled. This has doubtless given occasion to the appellation of the *Anacharsis of the dressing-room* humorously applied to M. Lantier's Antenor.

It is probably the great success and rapid sale of that work, which induced its author to venture upon a second almost of the same nature, and for the same readers. M. Lantier seems to have calculated upon the levity of the age, the want of taste for solid information, and the rage for that species of composition called Novels; and wishing to accommodate himself to the imbecility of the majority of readers, he conceived that an infallible method of pleasing, would be to blend in his own way, materials of light information, amusing anecdotes of celebrated persons, picturesque details on the beautiful scenery of Switzerland, interesting episodes, numerous quotations in verse and prose, and to interweave them with the action of a regular novel. Thus each of these parts when divided from the rest would scarcely afford matter for a small pamphlet; but, united, compose three volumes, the chapters of which may be detached at pleasure and which when read together or at different times, never fail to excite interest and to dispel languor.

This kind of miscellanies must certainly meet with many who disapprove them, among those who are not fond of rambling incessantly from one object to another, among those profound thinkers who require coherency of ideas, method in their studies and connection in their occupations; among women who consider the reading of a novel an affair of such importance as to forbid the attention to be diverted to any other object. The table of contents however is a remedy to this inconvenience; each may select such parts as suit his taste, may separate or unite the parts at pleasure, and while this book is not absolutely a novel, nor travels, nor a history, nor a dissertation, it may be regarded as a collection of amusing letters on a multitude of different and in general highly interesting subjects.

Considering it only in this point of view it will be difficult not to do justice to M. Lantier's manner of writing and delineation, to the rapidity and perspicuity of his style, his mild philosophy, and indulgent morality. He always appears as the well-informed and at the same time amiable writer, who imparts his knowledge to his readers without pedantry as in an amusing conversation.

From what has been said of the variety of subjects treated of by the author, it is obvious that it would be difficult to give an analysis of his work; the outline of the story is not long, and is as follows: Madame Bonnard, a widow, who goes by the name of Vantsieden, a woman of an abandoned character and consummate hypocrisy, contrives by her arts to enslave the mind of M. Bertaud a widower in the decline of life, of a weak mind and open to prejudice. She renders herself mistress of all his inclinations, so that he even forgets his duty as a good parent towards an only daughter. Madame Vantsieden forms the design of getting into her hands M. Bertaud's fortune, by marrying him herself, and by giving his daughter Blanche in marriage to her brother, a needy adventurer of a character equally base and detestable as his sister.

Blanche

Blanche, as may easily be imagined, is in love with a young man for whom her father had intended her before the arrival and schemes of Madame Vantsieden. Urged on the one hand by the persecutions of her ridiculous suitor, the decided tone of Mad. Vantsieden, and the measures proposed for forcing her to an union she detests; advised on the other, by her mind who acts the part of a mother, she resolves to fly from her father's house to escape the three-fold punishment of the triumph of an intriguing woman, the degradation of her father, and the persecutions of a lover she cannot cure. She elopes with her lover, a rich, sensible, affectionate, well-principled man, full of probity and honor, who far from abusing this rather rash confidence of his mistress, swears not to sully her virtue and innocence.

These are our two travellers in Switzerland, who on their arrival with their aunt or their friends, precede with the recital of their adventures, the descriptions of such parts of Switzerland, as they reside in or pass through, and the various anecdotes of the persons with whom they happen to associate. Delmont, Blanche's lover, cannot for a long time obtain her consent to their union; she flatters herself with being able to effect a reconciliation with her father and to obtain his approbation; but her elopement has given large scope to her malicious step-mother to embitter her father against her, and Bertaud perfectly bewitched, carries his barbarity so far as to send his daughter a malediction instead of his consent. From that time the unhappy Blanche enjoys no repose. She falls sick, and nothing can appease her inexorable father; neither the efforts of friendship, the ties of blood, nor the voice of nature. After repeated applications with no better success, Blanche at length agrees to marry her lover; but scarcely does the poor Delmont imagine that he is capable of compensating his wife for the risk she has incurred of being disinherited by her stern parent, when he himself is whelmed in ruin by a bankruptcy. Fortunately however the representations of a female domestic, who had sufficient address to gain the good graces of Blanche's step-mother, by degrees opens Bertaud's eyes to the under-hand conduct of his artful wife. During a dangerous illness he consents to withdraw his malediction, to see his daughter, and to make another will annulling that which his guilty spouse had extorted from him. All this is conducted with such secrecy, that Madame Bertaud is not acquainted with the circumstances: Bertaud dies, and the infamous usurper of his property and his confidence is exceedingly surprised to find at once her artifices disappointed and her hopes destroyed.

Such is a brief sketch of the story which M. Lantier has lengthened by means of details frequently very interesting. It may be objected that the choice of the subject is not the most happy; perhaps, it is injuring the cause of morality to exhibit the picture of a father so blind, so barbarous and unnatural, because such examples are rare, and because young people are too apt to inveigh against paternal authority, and to condemn the prudent measures of a father as barbarity and injustice when they run counter to the passions of that inconsiderate period of life. Perhaps the character of the aunt may be reproached with a too easy indulgence, and the action with some improbabilities; but these trifling defects are compensated by a bold colouring in the delineation of the characters, by the interesting contrast of oppressed virtue and triumphant hypocrisy, and by the rapidity of the narration.

The descriptive part is not rendered so interesting as it might have been, principally because it relates to well known subjects, and is only an abridgement of the accounts of Coxe, Miss Williams, &c. and likewise because it interrupts the thread of the story, which disappoints curiosity, and diverts part of the attention. It however posseses the merit of being very accurate and

and interspersed with philosophical reflections unmixed with affectation and which are the more striking as they are concise and unexpected.

The numerous anecdotes contained in the work are not all worthy of being repeated, but at least M. Lantier almost always relates them with a grace which makes them appear new.

The parts which we venture to think superfluous in these three large volumes are: some political reflections, the assurance of which does not always preserve them from being erroneous, for example, those on the validity of marriages not sanctioned by the civil authority, on the superior excellence of this or that form of government, on philosophy, the French Revolution, &c.

There are likewise long and numerous Latin and Italian quotations, which are almost useless, except to that class of readers for whom this book is particularly calculated.

There are extracts of whole pages from Rousseau, Voltaire and other celebrated authors, a reference to whose works would have been quite sufficient.

There is also an abridgement of the history of William Tell, Gresler, Charles the Bold, and of Switzerland, which frequently very unseasonably interrupts the heroine's correspondence, protracts the denouement, at the most interesting moment, and does not afford sufficient matter for instruction or amusement.

We are therefore inclined to think, at the same time requesting the amiable author to pardon our opinion, that with suppressing such parts as his own taste may suggest, his book would acquire more consistency and that it's fate like that of Antenor would be, to have many critics, but likewise many readers; of compensating its little utility by its fund of amusement, and of extorting from all who read it the confession, that the author must be an amiable man who possesses prodigious knowledge, the most accomplished mind, the purest heart, a delicate taste, an elegant style, and whose friendship must be as valuable as the perusal of his book is agreeable.

GERMAN BOOKS.

Beitrage zur genauern Kenntniss der Spanischen Besitzungen in America: Memoirs contributing to the knowledge of the Spanish possessions in America; accompanied with observations, by Ch. A. Fischer, 8vo. 276 pp. 1 rxd. 12 gr.

THESE memoirs are extracted from the Spanish work, entitled *Viagen Universal*. They contain many notices, and much information; the more interesting as we are still but imperfectly acquainted with South and North West America, as far as relates to its cultivation, fertility, population, and industry.

The work is divided into seven sections. The first contains a description of the island of Cuba, and its capital Havannah; in the second is found a sketch of the commerce of Mexico, during the year 1798; and a table of the exports and imports of Vera Cruz. In the third and fourth are contained some notices on the province of Buenos Ayres, and on that of Tucuman. The fifth, and the most interesting to the majority of readers, comprises seven letters, containing information almost totally unknown to our geographers, on Peru; the districts composing that province, and its natural productions. In the sixth, we find a description of Montanna Real, an extensive country, but which being covered with immense forests, has hitherto been not much frequented, and is consequently but little known. The seventh section concludes the work with miscellanies on various subjects.

Our readers will not be displeased to see the following extracts from the interesting contents of this volume.

The island of Cuba is 300 leagues in length, and with a population of 300,000 souls, is divided into two districts, those of the Havannah and of Cuba. The town of Havannah is well built, the streets are paved, and the harbour is excellent. It is the residence of the Captain-General, and the mart for all the productions going from Mexico to Europe, and from Europe to the provinces. The number of its inhabitants amounts to 35,000 Creoles and Europeans, exclusive of the garrison of 10,000 men. The population would doubtless be more considerable, if the consumption did not carry off the greatest part in the flower of their age. The ravages of the consumption are aided by the *vomito negro*, or yellow vomit; caused by the excessive heats, and the immoderate use of spirituous liquors; and is particularly fatal to Europeans who have lately arrived. Of seven Spanish regiments sent hither, during the American war in 1780, this disease swept away whole companies in a very short time, so that the seven regiments were very soon reduced to three.

At the beginning of the 18th century, a university was founded at the Havannah; consisting of six professorships of theology, six of law, four of medicine, and three of philosophy. But as no salary was attached to them, this university has hitherto made very little progress in the sciences.

The export of the productions of Cuba is not considerable, and consists principally of tobacco, wax, cotton, and sugar; the importation of European commodities is great; because the island, notwithstanding the fertility of its soil, is destitute of many articles of prime necessity, as well as of luxury.

Thus the duties on importation amounted in 1792 to 900,000 piastres.

Besides the Havannah, Cuba contains several other towns of importance, as Guanavarva, which has 12,000 inhabitants; San Jago de Cuba, with 20,000; Puerto del Principe, with 30,000, Bayamo, with 12,000; San Carlos de Matanzas, with 7000, and a good harbour; Holguin contains 6000; Guina nearly as many; Barawa, the most ancient of them all, being founded in 1512, by Diogo Velasquez, has only 2600.

The province of Buenos Ayres is celebrated for the salubrity of its climate, and its fertility. It contains innumerable flocks and herds of horses, oxen, and of sheep. In 1792, there were exported to Spanish ports, only 825,609 cow's skins, and in 1796, 875,698. Cattle are so cheap that a bull may be purchased for a piastre, (3 shillings), and a noble horse for two. Meat is distributed gratis. The town of Buenos Ayres is computed to contain 30,000 inhabitants.

The province of Tucuman, nearly 380 leagues in length, is supposed to comprehend not more than a million of inhabitants. The soil of this country is fertile, and its capital is Cordova. Salta, another town in this province, is celebrated for its market for cattle. In the vicinity of the town are frequently seen 60,000 mules, and 4000 horses, mostly intended for Peru.

According to the enumeration made in 1795, the number of the inhabitants of the kingdom of Peru, is estimated at only 1,066,122, on a surface of 33629 square leagues. It contains but 1460 towns and villages of all descriptions. Lima, its metropolis, has 62,910 inhabitants, who follow no other occupation than agriculture, and breeding cattle. The town is composed of 3641 houses, and has no kind of manufacture. In the five years from 1785 to 1789, the exportation of gold and silver, in bullion, from Peru, was equal to the sum of 27,861,700 piastres.

The province of Montanna Real is remarkable for the great number of its plants, scarcely a twentieth part of which is known to botanists. It is traversed by many large rivers. The river of Amazons which receives all these

these tributary streams, rises at the lake of Lauricocha, situated in the province of Tarma, which forms a portion of Peru.

Its breadth, near its mouth, is about 80 Spanish leagues. The largest river, next to that of the Amazons, is the Ucayali, whose source is unknown. We are only told that its current is composed of eight navigable rivers.

The climate of Montanna Real, is moist, and very unhealthy, on account of its extensive forests; epidemic diseases are frequent, and make great havoc among the inhabitants, few of whom attain the age of 50. Most of them live in a savage state; some tribes only are formed into societies; others, as the Casibos, the Carapachus, and the Magnares, are still said to be Cannibals. Many of these savages worship the moon, and acknowledge a devil, under the name of Nugi, whom they detest, as the author of all evil. The Iquitos, in the plains, watered by the Nanay, worshipped birds and quadrupeds, carved in wood, stone, &c. They have chiefs, like other savages; polygamy is prevalent among them; the fecundity of the females is held in little estimation, and to prevent a super-abundant population, part of them are drowned. In 1794, the missionary P. Narcisso Girvalo de Barcel, persuaded a great number of these savages to embrace christianity.

The translation is correct, and even elegant; and the author promises another of the complete voyages of Captain Azara, which will be expected with eagerness by all the lovers of geographical knowledge.

Nekrolog auf das Jahr 1798; Necrology for the year 1798. By F. Schlichtegroll. Ninth year. Vol. I. 8vo. 392 pp. 1rxd.

THIS volume commences with the biography of a celebrated native of Germany, but who passed the greatest part of his life in Holland. This is David Rhunkenius, professor of history and eloquence, at Leyden, and celebrated for his critical works.

The most distinguished persons whose lives are given in this volume are: the poet Ch. G. Ramler, known by his admirable imitations of Horace; J. F. Mayer, who published some excellent works on rural economy; Jos. Hilarius Eckhel, director of the Cabinet of Medals at Vienna, of which he has given a description, and a doctrina nummorum veterum; John Reinhold Forster, the companion of Captain Cook; and Stephani, senior, a dramatic author of the theatre of Vienna.

The other biographies of persons less known in the walks of literature, are those of J. J. Rabe, the translator of the Mischnah, and part of the Gimarah; Joseph Horman, Ex-Jesuit of Dillingen; the Countess of Thurheim; Emilia Dorothea Schortmann; G. A. Will; and J. J. Maurer.